

Unions open way to settlement at Heathrow

A peace move was made by the British Airways unions last night in the dispute that has crippled Heathrow flights. The unions said they were prepared to abandon their agreement allowing management men to undertake routine maintenance jobs to "secure a return to work as quickly as possible". British Airways said it hoped for a "positive response" by leaders of the unofficial action and promised to react constructively.

British Airways faces run-down in services

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter
Shop stewards representing 4,000 British Airways maintenance workers yesterday succeeded in extending support for the unofficial action that has crippled domestic and European flights from Heathrow for 10 days.
But later determined efforts by most of the 14 unions recognized by the airline to end the action seemed to be bearing fruit. There will be no domestic flights from Heathrow today and about half the hundred scheduled European flights are expected to be cancelled.
Some AUEW members in Belfast yesterday refused to handle British Airways flights destined for provincial airports that are showing support for the action and the London-Belfast "Domestic" flight to and from Manchester were stopped after yesterday's meeting of stewards.
Nearly all British Airways aircraft workers at Heathrow belonging to the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers called for a call for support by the leaders of the unofficial action and stopped yesterday.
Other unions and management have joined forces to do the man's work. As a result management men are carrying out routine aircraft maintenance checks which became due after 72 hours' flight. Officials in AUEW, however, insist on the arrangement, but there is no doubt that, coming so soon after the Leyland toolmakers' defiance of the union's executive, it finds the British Airways dispute acutely embarrassing.

The shop stewards, who are demanding better shift pay and bargaining rights outside a formal negotiating structure, met at a mass meeting at Heathrow yesterday by 175 to 200 AUEW members on the day shift to give them full support.
If they get it the airline will see a progressive run-down in services as aircraft development or become due for service.

Foreign airlines using Heathrow have not been affected because they have made arrangements for servicing at airports abroad, often making unscheduled stops for routine checks.
But if the unofficial leaders of the dispute succeed in establishing a solid picket line at the entrances to Heathrow and persuade members of other unions to stop work in sympathy, all lines using the airport might be affected.
British Airways is maintaining long-distance services nearly intact on the assumption that passengers would find it harder to make alternative arrangements for long-distance flights than for the domestic or European services.
Last night the company said that 57 European and 20 long-distance flights would be leaving Heathrow today. Four long-haul services would be cancelled.

The most surprising aspect of the dispute has been the support for the stewards in the face of opposition from all the unions. The stewards are lobbying individual members of the AUEW executive to get official backing, but that seems unlikely.

The men's sympathy with the men's cause is the erosion of skilled differentials because of pay-restraining policies, the union maintains that the official forum for negotiations, the National Joint Council for Civil Air Transport, is the appropriate body to resolve pay anomalies.
A year ago the stewards resigned from the local level of the machinery and have since been demanding separate bargaining rights. British Airways has refused to meet them. Last night the 14 unions represented on the body were discussing the next step with management men.
Mr Reginald Birch, AUEW national organizer for aviation, said that yesterday's stewards' decision meant that if management ask our kids to fix something they will refuse.
Pickets were being mounted around the airport yesterday. Shop stewards are meeting this morning and a mass meeting has been called for tomorrow.
Southern airport, which has not been affected, has had extra business. British Air Ferries said last night that it planned to run 30 per cent more flights to Europe to meet heavy demand.
Leading article, page 13

France rules out use of troops in Zaïre

Paris, April 12.—France has no intention of sending forces to Africa to assist in a "Vietnam-style war". President Giscard d'Estaing assured the French people on television tonight. He added that French aircraft being used to ferry military supplies from Morocco to Zaïre would be recalled to France at the end of this week.
Defending a decision that has met a mixed reaction at home, the President said he had not acted at the request or on the orders of the United States.

"We acted on our own account to assist African friends. Africa is a neighbouring continent. Subversion in Africa would have consequences for both France and Europe."
He said the military situation in Zaïre appeared to have stabilized as a result of the dispatch of 1,500 Moroccan troops to the Shaba (formerly Katanga) war zone and the arms supply operation by the French aircraft.

French troops in the threatened copper-mining centre of Kolwezi were only instructors training local troops and helping to maintain French-supplied equipment, he said.
Emphasizing the independence of France's decision, the President said he had not mentioned the possibility to Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, when he visited Paris 10 days ago.
Field reports showed that the invaders were not as had been said. Katangan secessionist gendarmes, they were recently trained, he said, adding: "In other words, they are not Katangan gendarmes returning to their country after 12 years with their old weapons."

There are elements who have undergone war training. They operate by night in small groups of 10 or 20, using tried techniques.
There were situations, the President said, in which Europe had to manifest itself, and Europe manifested itself through the intermediary of France.

Communist and Socialist members of the French Assembly today called for a vote on the President's action and charged that he had violated the constitution.
Washington: The United States today announced that it had agreed to provide Zaïre with military aid worth \$15m (about £8m) but said the supplies would exclude weapons and ammunition.

A State Department spokesman said that President Mobutu of Zaïre, fighting insurgents who crossed from Angola into Shaba, had asked for combat supplies. But these would not be sent.
"We see a need for an end to the fighting, not an expansion of the fighting," the spokesman explained.

The supplies being sent comprise one C-130 Hercules transport aircraft and spare parts, radio equipment, petrol, signal panels, and spare parts for trucks and Jeeps. The State Department spokesman said: "We are attempting to provide assistance which will help Zaïre to stabilize the situation and protect its borders and the integrity of the nation."
Moscow: The Soviet Union today accused the West and China of trying to interfere in the internal affairs of Zaïre, at the same time issuing a strong denial that it was involved in the fighting there.

A statement carried by Tass said the fighting was a "strictly internal conflict which need not concern anyone outside that country". But "a number of Western countries, as well as China, are urgently sending arms and military supplies to the central government of Zaïre", Tass said.

It added that a "slandereous campaign" had been launched alleging an invasion of Zaïre by Soviet-backed Angolans and Cuban troops and "the Soviet Union resolutely rejects as absurd any allegations of its complicity in the events in Zaïre".
Lusaka: The French airlift is a prelude to interference by other members of the European Community with "criminal intentions" against Angola, a senior Angolan official claimed.
Rabat: Egypt has agreed to supply military air support to the operation in Zaïre, reliable sources said here today. Approval was given at the end of a fact-finding mission by military experts who have been visiting Zaïre, the sources said.

It was not yet known here what form the Egyptian aid would take or whether Egypt would agree to send fighter aircraft. Reuters, Agence France-Presse and AP.



Zaïre troops unloading military equipment at a Kolwezi airstrip only 30 miles from the front.

Phase three talks start today as some unions set sights on 12-16%

By Tim Jones
Labour Reporter

Ministers will meet the TUC economic committee today to begin discussions on a further phase of wage restraint amid gathering discontent among rank-and-file trade unionists.
Today's discussions are unlikely to include any specific figures for phase three. Talks will continue far into the night, and it will be many weeks before the final details are reached.

A pattern of union hostility has emerged as a constant in the agendas for many of the conferences and will be used by union leaders to impress on Mr Healey, the Chancellor, that they cannot accede to a further round unless a "credible" package emerges.

Some union leaders believe that a package with tax concessions, which amounts to more than 12 and 16 per cent may be required to give them any hope of carrying their members with them.
When he presented his union's quarterly economic review yesterday, Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, said that a phase three policy would put more people out of work.

"We have a wrong economic strategy, given political sex appeal by the argument that there will be a wages jungle if there is not another year of wage restraint," he said. "I would rather be in the jungle than undernourished in a zoo."

His disillusionment with voluntary pay restraint is mirrored in motions contained in the preliminary agenda for the conference of the National Union of Railworkers.
Not one motion backs the continuation of the social contract where it affects pay. The motions vary only in the strength of their condemnation of the effects on working conditions of the present policy of phases and two.

Some call for a gradual return to free collective bargaining and others call for its immediate application.
In its economic review the ASTMS notes that unemployment has risen to 700,000 by 1979 is clearly unobtainable.

Referring to the "great relief" which will be brought to Britain's balance of payments from 1979 onwards by North Sea oil, Mr Jenkins says its effects should be planned for now.
"The economy could and should be refueled and the scale of investment improved. All the arguments point to no phase three."

Mr Howell said that the fines, the highest of which was £40, did not appear to bear any relation to the intention of the Government, which was proposing to increase fines for football hooliganism to a maximum of £1,000. "The use of deterrence and attendance centres seems to have more merit than inadequate fines," he said.

He has asked the police and Charlton Athletic to give him full reports of Monday's disturbances, but said: "This sort of behaviour has got to be stopped. If it means fans will be denied access to the terraces then that is what we shall do. It is not the first time."

Chelsea supporters have been involved in something like this.
In the Commons last week Mr Howell announced a wide range of measures to control football hooliganism. The Football League and the Football Association, he said, would ensure that all Manchester United away matches would be ticketed only on occasions. In no circumstances would tickets be available on the day of the match.

Chairman's reply: Mr Roger Fyson, aged 63, chairman of the magistrates who fined the five Chelsea supporters, said last night: "I think our penalties were just. It may be all right for Mr Howell to talk in terms of £1,000 fines. He should try collecting them."

"When dealing with soccer hooligans magistrates take into account their means. Often we are dealing with unemployed people who are going to football matches and paying the entrance fee and for the drinks which make them violent with money they get from the state. They should never have had the money in the first place."

"What we tried to do today was impose a penalty of reasonable hardship. There were £40 fines and compensation to pay."

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Leyland under fire from Nader group

From Frank Vord
US Economics Correspondent

Washington, April 12
A leading American consumer group sponsored by Mr Ralph Nader has called on the government's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to start a full investigation into 27 alleged important defects in 74 models manufactured by Leyland.
The group, Centre for Auto Safety, concludes in a report on British Leyland to the government agency that "in addition to its callous disregard of owner complaints and warranty claims (c) has consistently exported to the United States passenger vehicles which present an unreasonable risk of accidents occurring as a result of design, construction, or performance."

The potential for death and injuries caused by these cars was considerable.
The group notes that only 57,029 Jaguars, MGs, Austins and Triumphs, were using United States roads at the start of last year and while this was a relatively small number "the potential for death and injuries caused by these cars is considerable."

The 20-page report largely consists of a catalogue of alleged defects with brief comments on the dangers involved.
The report could result in an investigation which could have serious consequences for the British manufacturer. More importantly, however, is the prospect that the charges made today will win wide publicity and damage British Leyland sales in this important market.

Many of the complaints against British Leyland's products are too briefly outlined and British Leyland does not appear to have been given a fair chance to respond in detail.

Mr Thomas Wilks, the consumer group's lawyer said the report and investigation was based on consumer complaints, its own research and "inside information from a British Leyland employee in the United States".
The consumer group claims, for example, that in Jaguar cars alone it found defective fuel tank change-over switches, defective fuel pumps, ignition amplifier stalling, power steering failure, disc brake defects, remote control door lock failures, windscreen washer motor defects and dashboard malfunctions.

Other specific defects are itemized with regard to MG and Triumph sports cars and the Austin Marina.
Continued on page 15, col 5

BBC radio breaks a new sound barrier

By Kenneth Gossling

Quadrasonic broadcasts—radio in the round—are to be transmitted for an experimental period of 12 months by the BBC, beginning at the end of this month.

Matrix H, developed by the BBC engineering research department, will be the system of transmission and the corporation says that 60 or 70 broadcasts spread over the year will be the first of their kind in the world.

The press and radio equipment manufacturers yesterday attended a demonstration of the new system, which has cost between £10,000 and £15,000, including the experimental year. That figure, according to Mr Douglas Muggersidge, Director of Programmes, BBC Radio, is equal to the cost of 15 minutes of television drama.

While Matrix H was being hailed as a great leap forward in radio, it was also admitted to be something of a leap in the dark. "We are aware," Mr Muggersidge said, "that very few people will be able to take advantage of the quad transmissions at the outset of the experiment."

But he hoped that by next March enough people will have been able to listen to provide a worthwhile reaction. It was also hoped to win two extra listeners and high-fidelity enthusiasts and that cheap decoders—the essential "black box"—adapters—would soon be on the market. They now cost £30, but owners of stereo equipment will have to have a quad decoder, making the total additional cost about £150.

Listeners to mono or stereo will not suffer in any way, the BBC says.

David Wade writes: The greatest innovation in modern radio technology was undoubtedly the introduction of VHF, which for the first time enabled listeners to hear clearly what they were being given. Yet it made little impact. Stereo, by comparison, a marginal improvement, is now the sound nobody can do without and it is difficult not to conclude that the reasons have been mainly commercial.

Stereo involved not only radio but the gramophone: therefore the manufacturers got behind it. The gramophone will probably apply to quadrasonic. The question, however, is whether it will inspire programmes as remarkable as radio once delivered—without benefit of any recent gadgetry; if it does, it will succeed, as it does, and even VHF have failed.

Ethiopian leader accuses Sudan of 'aggression'

Addis Ababa, April 12—Lieut-Colonel Mengistu Haile-Mariam, Ethiopian leader of state tonight, accused President Nimeiry of Sudan of aggression against his country.

In a broadcast speech he said Ethiopia was being invaded by a foreign force, armed by Sudan and supported by Sudanese artillery and tanks.

Sudan radio said Ethiopia was trying to conceal continuing defeats inflicted by Eritrean secessionists—Reuters.

Strict controls likely after Chelsea supporters fined

By Craig Secor

Supporters of Chelsea Football Club travelling to away matches are likely to face similar controls to those imposed on Manchester United supporters, Mr Howell, Minister of State for Sport and Recreation said yesterday.
He was speaking after more than a hundred Chelsea supporters had caused serious disturbances after their team lost 4-0 to Charlton Athletic on Monday. A fire was started in the ground, a social club and groundsmen were damaged, and windows outside were smashed.

Mr Howell indicated that his task in curbing football violence was not being made easy by the courts. He criticized fines totalling £160 imposed yesterday by Greenwich magistrates on five Chelsea supporters on charges of disorder from Monday's violence. The accused were also ordered to pay a total of £55 in compensation. Three others were remanded on bail.

The cases involved damage to a car window, two panes of glass in a house near the ground, and gutting at a building at Charlton Athletic's ground.

Teachers in attack on civil servants

Civil servants at the Department of Education and Science, whose arrogance is exceeded only by their ignorance, are trying to impose their direction on school curricula, the National Union of Teachers' conference was told. Mr Max Morris, a former union president, said the profession faced the danger of control by civil servants. The conference resolved to take action if any member was redundant compulsorily.

'Regular' specials

The Home Secretary is supporting a recommendation that the 23,000 special constables in England and Wales should wear dined capbands and look more like regular police officers.

Open government

A move by civil servants away from their traditional attitude of reticence is the way to more open government, according to a pamphlet.

Anti-dumping duty on Japanese steel

New curbs on some steel imports from Japan have been imposed by the Government. The restrictions, designed to head off a consignment of nearly 20,000 tonnes of steel on the way to British and European ports, impose a provisional anti-dumping duty of £20 a tonne on the imports.

Carter inside view

President Carter has allowed journalists to take an inside view of a day of his work in the White House. He appeared to be a keen self-improver, listening to music while speed-reading through piles of policy documents.

Sex education

A booklet denouncing sexual intercourse outside marriage and describing homosexual practices as perversion and abortion as murder has been written by a doctor and a vicar.

Local taxes hitch

Conservative plans for an alternative system of local government finance will not be ready for next month's council elections.

Dr Owen arrives in Cape Town

Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, has arrived in Cape Town for the most crucial part of his tour of Africa in search of a possible solution to Rhodesia's constitutional problems. He seemed encouraged by the way the tour had gone so far.

Chelsea Hotel sold

Arab interests may have been involved in the £6m purchase of the Chelsea Hotel in Sloane Street. The purchaser is Rangate, a British registered company, acting for Swiss clients. A Rangate director acted for Arab buyers of the Dorchester and for King Khalid of Saudi Arabia.

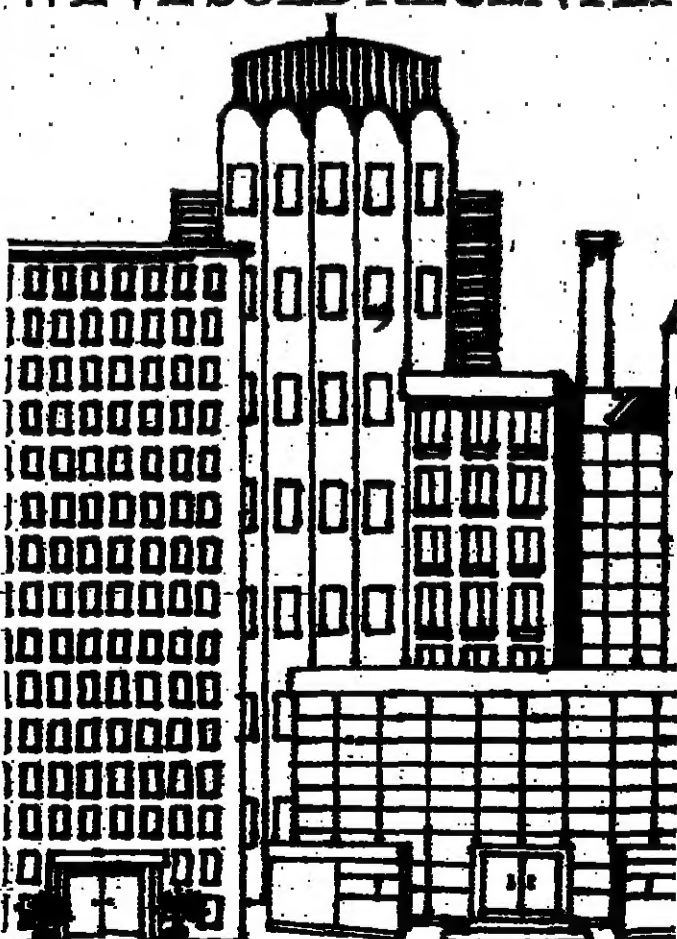
SNP ambitions

The Scottish National Party is hoping to make big advances at Labour's expense in next month's district council elections.

Shanghai: Mrs Thatcher sits in on a university English lesson in which articles from The Times are used in teaching

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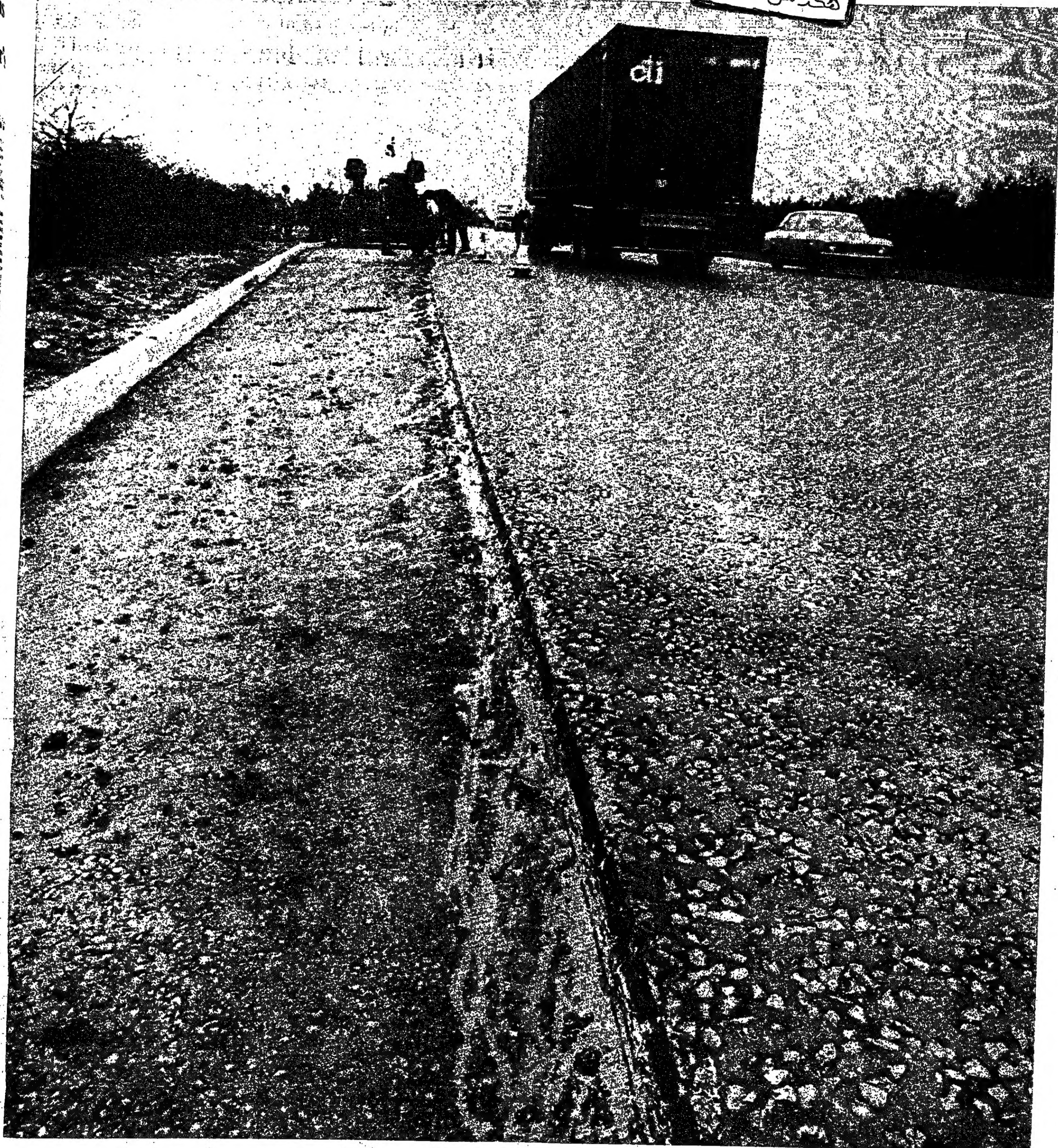
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Photograph: Gus Wylie

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HOME NEWS

The violent girl of 13 no public institution is willing to take

Disturbed adolescents find a gap in welfare services

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

A severely disturbed girl aged 13 is being treated in a psychiatric hospital because a suitable place cannot be found for her in a public institution. Her treatment is costing Hackney social service department £168 a week, more than double the cost in a health service hospital or local authority home.

The case illustrates the gaps in the welfare services through which disturbed adolescents, particularly girls, often fall. The girl has exhausted all the possibilities offered by the education and social services because she is felt to be too difficult to handle. For the same reason no adolescent unit in a psychiatric hospital will take her.

She is physically and verbally violent and has attacked a number of staff at the various institutions that have held her for a time over the past 18 months. An indication of the desperation felt by the various professionals trying to work with her is that at one point she was admitted, heavily sedated, to a children's hospital on condition that she left the next day.

Doctors involved in her case have also considered trying to get her into Holloway prison or Broadmoor special hospital, not because they felt either would have offered ideal treatment but because either would

have held her until a suitable place could be found. Both Holloway and Broadmoor have been ruled out, however, because the girl has not committed an offence with which she could be charged. In any case, she could not be sent to Holloway because a recent government order has stopped the remand of any girl aged under 14 to any adult penal institution.

The girl has presented difficulties to the various services involved only in the past two years, although she has been under care orders for most of her life. The onset of adolescence and the change from primary to secondary school seem to have initiated her difficulties.

The girl was born prematurely and spent the first four months of her life in hospital. Premature birth and early separation from the mother are classic factors in later disturbance among children. She also spent some of her early years in a residential nursery, again separated from her mother.

But she has spent most of her life living at home, under supervision by social workers. Unlike her fellow delinquents, who have also been in care but were not separated from their mother at birth, she has not adapted well to being at home.

She was sent to a day school for maladjusted children, where the staff offered an "excellent service", according to Miss J. A. Simpson, head of

social work services at Hackney. She did well enough at the school to be transferred to an ordinary primary school for a year, and a special effort was made to help her in the transition from primary to secondary school.

It did not work, however. The girl has spent most of the past 18 months going in and out of various private and local authority homes, as well as hospitals. She was in an assessment centre for six months, where the cost at present is £212 a week, and then went home again. When her mother could not handle her, she was sent to a children's home for a few days. Then to a long-stay home for two months, and then to a specialist private home for difficult adolescents.

She went home again for two months, and then returned to the assessment centre but ran away. It is only in the past few weeks that the possibility of admitting adolescents to wards in specialized units or adult wards. The committee is commissioning evidence on about twenty to thirty adolescents, boys and girls, for whom no suitable place can be found.

Miss Bridger Funn, development officer of the committee, said: "We agree that children should not be sent to prison, but we have no facilities for the very violent adolescent girl in London. Some of them could be contained in adult wards, which is not ideal but it is better than waiting until these children seriously harm somebody."

Miss Simpson, however, thinks that the clamour for more secure units to contain violent adolescents is somewhat misplaced. They are necessary, she believes, to hold a violent youngster while he or she is being assessed for the most suitable treatment. If residential homes contained skilled staff, trained to work with adolescents instead of just small children, it might be easier to cope with similar girls.

The case of this girl, and the three others the same area has on average each year, has not been exacerbated by the community home system established under the Children and Young Persons Act 1969, Miss Simpson believes. It is true, she says, that girls could be sent to named approved schools by the courts before the Act became law, but they often had to wait months before such a school would agree to accept them and the success rate was not high. The new community homes are trying to use new methods to help disturbed youngsters that will be more successful.

Miss Simpson places the core of the difficulties on both the lack of trained staff in various establishments for adolescents and the fact that most institutions are geared to realize their aspirations without having to resort to violence. They are: legalization of all political parties and trade unions; coexistence of the Basque language and Castilian as the official languages; recovery of independence in 1958; the assassination of Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco, then the Prime Minister, in December 1973. The ETA spokesman proudly admitted to me that none of those responsible for the explosion which caused his death had yet been caught. The ETA leader said he had been a militant for nine years and that Admiral Carrero was killed because "he was the only person who could continue the Franco regime". "We are capable of doing more than this. If we do not it is because we do not believe in it."

Since General Franco's death 16 months ago ETA has claimed responsibility for at least 18 deaths including that of Señor Juan Arriola, the head of the provincial delegation of Guipuzcoa (one of the Basque provinces) and a member of the Council of the Realm, the country's highest advisory body. An estimated seven ETA members have been killed by police since the dictator died.

To date the Government's widening of its amnesty has benefited 48 ETA members and about 30 are still in prison. So far no ETA members have been released who took part directly in crimes of violence and it is

thought unlikely that they will be. Although ETA might pass from the "offensive" to the "defensive", the military wing of the organization (there is also a political one) will not be disbanded, said the spokesman. "We will always continue to be military because although there might be democratic freedoms and an amnesty people might demand autonomy in demonstrations and the Civil Guard retaliate by shooting people. In which case we would immediately kill one of them."

Also "in the case that there is another confrontation like there was in 1958 (the Spanish civil war) or in Chile (the fall of Allende) we will be prepared".

The moral and actual support that ETA has enjoyed over the years has been considerable. Under General Franco the Basque language and culture were always notoriously tight-lipped whenever ETA carried out an action and police made investigations.

The ETA leader admitted that when the people stopped leading their support the ETA would have come to change their military tactics. "More is higher than ever. It is better than ever for we are getting some of the things we want. For three years, police have not been able to touch us," he said. His girl companion, who crossed the frontier from Spain to meet me, tapped the table at this moment as if to say "touch wood".

There was a time when some ETA militants used to live in France and cross the frontier to take action. Now militants live in Spain as the French police are cooperating with their Spanish colleagues in rooting out members. Something they were reluctant to do under General Franco.

It was logical that the French Government was worried by ETA's demands for three French Basque provinces to be joined with the three Spanish ones to form an independent Basque country.

The ETA leader said that the organization would always campaign for independence, but if events showed that the Basque people (in Spain) found autonomy sufficient then they would give up their struggle.

He denied that ETA received any money or help from other countries. There had been some contacts with the IRA but no aid from them. Money came from bank robberies, kidnapping ransoms and other people. The ETA leader admitted that their last bank robbery was earlier this year in Amorebieta when £115,000 was stolen. "This kind of money lasts a short time. We need a lot of money."

The ETA military wing was so well organized (based on a system of cells) that members often did not know their colleagues, he said. He refused to give the number of members. Politically, ETA was socialist and wanted "a dictatorship of the people over the oligarchy" with "a state of the people".

The ETA leader said there had been contacts with the Government several months ago, but they had soon broken down because the Government wanted to negotiate the terms of the amnesty. "For us it is not negotiable, and the Government is afraid that we will act."

Bernard Levin, page 12

WEST EUROPE

Basque separatists threaten renewed campaign of violence

From William Chislett
Biarritz, April 12

The Basque separatist organization ETA is threatening to start a new campaign of violence unless there are basic democratic freedoms and a total amnesty a month before the Spanish general elections. "If these conditions are not fulfilled, we shall immediately pass to the attack", a leader of ETA's military wing told *The Times*.

In addition, he said, ETA will also recommend that Basques "actively abstain" from participating in the elections. The ETA leader said that this could take the form of strikes and demonstrations. The elections are to be held in June after a three-week-long electoral campaign. This would put the ETA deadline at around the middle of May.

ETA issued a document about the elections at the end of March in which it listed all the conditions which must be fulfilled before the organization considers that democratic freedoms exist. "The Basque people want peace," said the document. "This means the creation of a minimum number of democratic points which the people can use to realize their aspirations without having to resort to violence."

They are: legalization of all political parties and trade unions; coexistence of the Basque language and Castilian as the official languages; recovery of independence in 1958; the assassination of Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco, then the Prime Minister, in December 1973. The ETA spokesman proudly admitted to me that none of those responsible for the explosion which caused his death had yet been caught. The ETA leader said he had been a militant for nine years and that Admiral Carrero was killed because "he was the only person who could continue the Franco regime". "We are capable of doing more than this. If we do not it is because we do not believe in it."

Since General Franco's death 16 months ago ETA has claimed responsibility for at least 18 deaths including that of Señor Juan Arriola, the head of the provincial delegation of Guipuzcoa (one of the Basque provinces) and a member of the Council of the Realm, the country's highest advisory body. An estimated seven ETA members have been killed by police since the dictator died.

To date the Government's widening of its amnesty has benefited 48 ETA members and about 30 are still in prison. So far no ETA members have been released who took part directly in crimes of violence and it is

thought unlikely that they will be. Although ETA might pass from the "offensive" to the "defensive", the military wing of the organization (there is also a political one) will not be disbanded, said the spokesman. "We will always continue to be military because although there might be democratic freedoms and an amnesty people might demand autonomy in demonstrations and the Civil Guard retaliate by shooting people. In which case we would immediately kill one of them."

Also "in the case that there is another confrontation like there was in 1958 (the Spanish civil war) or in Chile (the fall of Allende) we will be prepared".

The moral and actual support that ETA has enjoyed over the years has been considerable. Under General Franco the Basque language and culture were always notoriously tight-lipped whenever ETA carried out an action and police made investigations.

The ETA leader admitted that when the people stopped leading their support the ETA would have come to change their military tactics. "More is higher than ever. It is better than ever for we are getting some of the things we want. For three years, police have not been able to touch us," he said. His girl companion, who crossed the frontier from Spain to meet me, tapped the table at this moment as if to say "touch wood".

There was a time when some ETA militants used to live in France and cross the frontier to take action. Now militants live in Spain as the French police are cooperating with their Spanish colleagues in rooting out members. Something they were reluctant to do under General Franco.

It was logical that the French Government was worried by ETA's demands for three French Basque provinces to be joined with the three Spanish ones to form an independent Basque country.

The ETA leader said that the organization would always campaign for independence, but if events showed that the Basque people (in Spain) found autonomy sufficient then they would give up their struggle.

He denied that ETA received any money or help from other countries. There had been some contacts with the IRA but no aid from them. Money came from bank robberies, kidnapping ransoms and other people. The ETA leader admitted that their last bank robbery was earlier this year in Amorebieta when £115,000 was stolen. "This kind of money lasts a short time. We need a lot of money."

The ETA military wing was so well organized (based on a system of cells) that members often did not know their colleagues, he said. He refused to give the number of members. Politically, ETA was socialist and wanted "a dictatorship of the people over the oligarchy" with "a state of the people".

The ETA leader said there had been contacts with the Government several months ago, but they had soon broken down because the Government wanted to negotiate the terms of the amnesty. "For us it is not negotiable, and the Government is afraid that we will act."

Bernard Levin, page 12

Strauss plea for closer links with America

From Our Correspondent
Berlin, April 12

The international political scene has reached its most dangerous period since the end of the Second World War, Herr Franz Josef Strauss, chairman of the Christian Social Union (CSU), believes. The United States has not fully regained competence of action, he said in an interview with *Die Welt*. Europeans were "but an economic factor in world politics, not a political, let alone a military one."

Herr Strauss foresaw the danger of American and European political drifting apart, a natural and understandable interest of Soviet power politics. Though emphasizing that he was opposed to thinking in national terms, he said that West Germany had to consider seriously whether a Europe drifting towards the socialist future was still a worthwhile political goal.

The "strong man" in the CDU-CSU alliance talked of the urgency of working again for a real partnership between the United States and Europe in foreign policy.

Agreement could be reached, he said, on a free economic world order, the rejection of a worldwide cartel on raw materials, a reshaping of the Atlantic pact, a strengthening of the Atlantic pact as partners, world-wide responsibility with America.

Criticizing Bonn for what he saw as a practically non-existent foreign policy, Herr Strauss still supported Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor, in his resistance to President Carter's demand for an indefinite extension of the agreement with Brazil on nuclear equipment. "We are partners of the Americans and not there to take orders from them," he added.

The full-page interview implied that Herr Strauss could be expected to become more active in foreign policy debates in the Bundestag. He said the CDU-CSU had no one to take the place of a foreign minister in a shadow Cabinet but there were several experienced and reliable politicians in this field.

"However, I exercise an adequate influence on the attitude and orientation towards foreign policy of the joint caucus," he added in all modesty.

Decision to build nuclear plant upheld by court

From Our Correspondent
Berlin, April 12

The administration court of Würzburg ruled today that the Bavarian Government was within its rights when it approved the construction of a nuclear power plant at Grafenrheinfeld in the Schweinfurt district.

The city of Schweinfurt and others had filed a suit against the Government claiming that security precautions were not sufficiently observed. A total of DM1,500m (£375m) has already been spent on construction.

ACP countries press EEC for better trade links

Suva, Fiji, April 12—

Developing countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) asked the European Community here today for firm decisions about trade between them.

The request was made at a meeting between Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, the Fijian Prime Minister, who is president of the ACP Council of Ministers, and Mr Edmund Dell, Britain's Secretary of State for Trade, who is president of the EEC Council of Ministers.

It followed strong criticism of the EEC yesterday by Sir Kamisese Mara, who said the Community had adopted an ungenerous and unyielding attitude to third world exports.

"On behalf of the 52 ACP countries the Prime Minister stressed to Mr Dell that the ACP felt strongly that they had reached the stage where they expected decisions," a Fijian Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The ACP and EEC councils meet together tomorrow to discuss relations between them.

The ACP council decided to adopt later in the week a programme to improve trade and other cooperation between them.

Sir Kamisese Mara said earlier that hopes of a new relationship between rich and poor countries were fading, and the developing countries had to rely more on themselves.

Reuters.

Church occupiers ignore order

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 12

The Roman Catholic traditionalists occupying the church of St Nicolas du Charbonnet, in the Latin Quarter, refused today to obey a court order to vacate the premises. The court had ordered them to leave voluntarily or be evicted by force if necessary.

The court order was issued against a group of about 100 traditionalists occupying the church of St Nicolas du Charbonnet, in the Latin Quarter, in Paris. The court had ordered them to leave voluntarily or be evicted by force if necessary.

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rolls of watchers or donors of offerings in support of the traditionalists cause.

Chairs were being arranged in rows in one of the side chapels for a lecture in theology to denounce the ways of the modern church, which was to follow the evening Mass, at which Mgr Ducaud-Bourget, the instigator and organizer of the occupation of St Nicolas, preached.

There has never been any real likelihood of force being used to put an end to the occupation of the church. The Paris court which ruled it illegal and authorized the parish priest, Father Bellego, to call on the police to enforce the judgement, also indicated its distaste for such a solution.

This, the court's president said, "would create an unpleasant situation for all concerned". He appointed mediator, M. Jean Guizot, of the French Academy, the catholic philosopher, who was given three months to produce a report.

After meeting Mgr Ducaud-Bourget, Father Bellego, and the Archbishop of Paris, Cardinal Marty, M. Guizot was in Rome last week to obtain the support of the Vatican for a compromise solution, which

Cardinal Marty refuses to contemplate.

The Cardinal has said recently that to allow the traditionalists to have a church of their own where they could worship as they pleased would amount to giving official approval to a schism.

A lover of tradition, M. Guizot is also a close friend of the Pope, who publicly wishes him prompt success in his efforts on Easter Monday.

Father Serravallo, one of the four or five traditionalist priests who minister to the needs of the new congregation told me: "Many Catholics today are in deep distress. They do not understand what is happening in their Church. The conciliar texts are like the decisions of Pope Paul VI—they are ambiguous. All we are in that the rites and teaching of the Church should respect Catholic doctrine. We are not a party in the Church, not for ourselves. The obligation to say the Mass is based on an abusive interpretation. It attributes a papal decree the same authority as to church laws. The Mass is being taken down irreversibly for a time the liturgy of the Mass."

Lack of crime records 'hindered social work'

By Our Social Services
Correspondent

A recommendation that the Home Office should call police forces to make parent criminal records more widely available to social workers will be considered tomorrow by Surrey Social Services Committee.

The recommendation is in a report on a girl aged 15 and a boy aged 12 who were sexually assaulted by their father last year, less than a month after the council had relinquished parental rights on the children.

The father has been jailed for life. The report arises from an internal inquiry by Mr R. S. J. Potter, Surrey's director of social services, and Mr A. N. Mundt, deputy clerk.

They conclude that the social service department made several mistakes in handling the case, but that decision were hampered by social workers' heavy case loads and by lack of information about the father's criminal record. The report refers to the father throughout as "B".

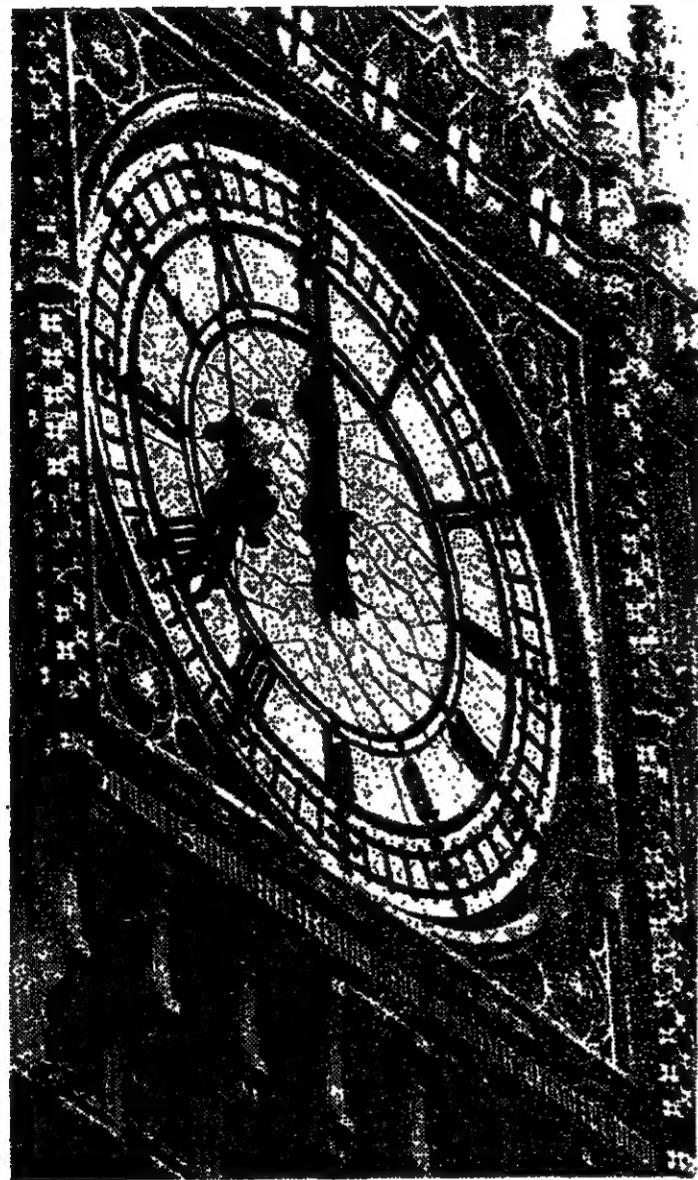
The three children of B's first marriage were first taken into care by Surrey in 1968, after their mother had died and B was in prison. They were officially fostered by their grandparents and Surrey assumed

parental rights over the children the following year. He made clear to a social worker who visited him in Grendon psychiatric prison that he would challenge the council's assumption of parental rights.

Attempts by Surrey to obtain details of B's criminal record failed and the report notes that records of the case were poor partly because of pressure on the social service department. Those details were given some years later to a social worker in Ealing, but in such a way that she felt unable to disclose them to anyone else.

The report says the case demonstrates a gap in information that should be available where parental rights are likely to be assumed, or have been, and where a child is being returned home on trial to a parent. Such circumstances, the report says, children may be at much risk as children about whom there is suspicion that the parent might injure them. In those cases Home Office guidance has been issued asking chief officers of police to provide information from criminal records for case conferences.

Such information should be provided uniformly throughout the country, the report says. It should not be provided unless the Home Office issues a circular advising it to be done.



Spring clean: A workman cleaning a clock face while Big Ben is being overhauled. The clock, which was stopped on April 4, is due to be restarted on April 17.

Rheumatism delays criticized

By Our Health Services
Correspondent

Familial doctors are often called on to treat rheumatic complaints but their training equips them with little knowledge about diagnosis and management of the diseases, the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council says in a report published yesterday.

Lack of knowledge often causes long waits for patients, many of them, therefore, turn to unorthodox methods of treatment. A new patient has to wait on average nearly five weeks to see a consultant.

The waiting time for a rheumatic patient to be admitted to hospital varies from three-and-a-half weeks in the North-east to two-and-a-half months in north-west London.

Of every thousand people on a family doctor's list 153 see him with a rheumatic complaint each year. The doctor will, on average, see at least one new patient with some sort of back pain, arthritis or rheumatic complaint every working day.

The report says that although access to consultants has improved in the past six years variation in different areas persists, and is disturbing. The limited availability of consultants on Merseyside and in the South-west, West Midlands and Yorkshire is particularly worrying.

Why the Long Wait? (Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, 8-10 Charing Cross Road, London, WC2H 0BN; 25p).

Rent committee bias alleged by Labour MP

Two thirds of members of rent assessment committees are usually biased, because of their professional backgrounds, in favour of high property values, Mr Frank Aham, chairman of the Labour Party's housing committee, told the Young Socialists conference at Blackpool yesterday.

A "shaky attack on tenants' being mounted would be bitterly resented," he said.

Mr Aham, MP for Salford, East, and a member of the party's national executive, said: "This spring the campaign will be under way against the tenants of both council and private landlords. The property speculators and Conservative Party leaders are demanding higher rents."

"They also want to interfere with the security of tenure for tenants of private landlords. They want to demand a vicious cut in council house subsidies, which would necessitate further heavy rent rises."

"Trade unionists will regard an increase in rents as a reduction in real wages and act accordingly." To erode rent control would drive rents through the roof because of the severe housing shortage. "So long as this shortage remains so many rent control measures, which are demanding a vicious cut in council house subsidies, which would necessitate further heavy rent rises."

Fair rents being fixed by many rent assessment committees, were far too high.

Girls from the South 'have most experience of sex'

Girls from the South are the most sexually experienced in Britain and they gain their experience earlier according to a survey published in *Home* magazine today. The survey describes as a representative sample of 290 unmarried women between the ages of 18 and 26.

The survey found that 89 per cent of the girls questioned used some form of contraceptive, condoms being more popular in the North than the South. But the pill represented 86 per cent of all contraceptives used.

Birth control was more likely to be used by highly educated girls. Among A level school-leavers 97 per cent used contraceptives, compared with 84 per cent of those who left school before taking O-level examinations. But the survey says, the more education a girl has, the more likely she is to consider involvement with a foreigner or a man of a different colour.

Only 7 per cent said they had ever experienced feelings for another woman. According to Honey, such feelings are more than twice as likely to be expressed by girls from the South.

Chalk, Gravesend, who teaches at a comprehensive school. A first issue of four thousand copies is being sold by Grosvenor Books through retailers at 25p. Part of the cost of the publication is being borne by two undisclosed charities, one said to be a Christian concern and the other a general philanthropic organization.

The booklet has been criticized by some psychiatrists who say it could harm young people by fostering psychological difficulties over sex. The criticism was dismissed by Dr Claxton at the publisher's launching in London yesterday. "I have known many psychiatrists, and poor, unhappy people they are," he said.

The authors' central message is that sex is for marriage, and marriage is for children. Sex should be reserved as a pro-

creative force and a joy that unites husband and wife and creates a happy family.

The booklet is written in the form of letters and conversations between twins and their godfather, Uncle Frank, a doctor.

Asked by the twins: "There are lots of people who don't marry and many married people who don't have children. What about them?" Uncle Frank replies: "Basically the creative instinct is for the continuation of the race, but it is also for the enrichment of life. People, whether married or single, who live for others and exercise their creativity in their work, art, or other useful ways find that they are free from the demand for the physical aspects of sex."

"People who have not got this freedom, or victory over

lust, are prone to indulge in a sex activity. But this is not necessary."

Of boys who are "always after the girls", he says: "They are ignorant, stupid and plain selfish. Furthermore, if at their age they develop womanizing habits they'll risk disease and fail to find a clear and decent purpose in life and probably spoil a future stable marriage."

The last section of the book is a letter from the twins' mother to Uncle Frank, thanking him for the transformation brought about by his advice.

The twins no longer squabble, it says, their rooms are tidy, they help with the housework, they have both passed their O levels and they take an intelligent interest in world affairs.

Tomorrow's Parents (Grosvenor Books, 25p).

Modern sex precepts challenged in new booklet

By Neville Hodgkinson
Social Policy Correspondent

A booklet on sex education that challenges almost every modern concept on the subject was published yesterday. It argues that sex outside marriage is destroying civilization, that masturbation is harmful to the individual and society, that to practise homosexuality is an abuse of God's gift of sex, that abortion is murder, and that teachers who show young people sex education books describing sexual intercourse in detail are taking part in a conspiracy to destroy the family.

Tomorrow's Parents is written for adolescents and is illustrated with cartoons by David Lock. The authors are Dr Ernest Claxton, formerly principal assistant secretary of the British Medical Association, and the Rev James Fry, Vicar of

Chalk, Gravesend, who teaches at a comprehensive school.

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Journalists stay out

Sixty journalists of the East Midlands Allied Press Group in Northamptonshire voted yesterday to continue their 18-week-old strike, until nine colleagues, who resigned from the National Union of Journalists during the dispute, rejoin the union.

Murder charge

Cyrus Hoare, aged 53, of Hereford, Cornwall, was charged at Liskeard yesterday, with the murder of his brother, Cyril Hoare, aged 68, of Polperro, and his sister-in-law Doris Hoare, aged 70. Both were found shot on Sunday.

Hungry prisoners

More than ninety prisoners at Acklington prison, Northumberland, have gone on hunger strike for bigger helpings at meals.

OVERSEAS

هكذا من العمل

Mr Carter listens to music in his office while speed-reading through files of policy documents

From Fred Emery
Washington, April 12

Scathing comments at the expense of his most prominent Cabinet members, all against a constant background of classical music—this is the novel office view of President Carter.

The President allowed a *Time* magazine reporter, as he has also allowed a television network for broadcast later this week, to depict a day in his life at work.

Off at 6.45 am and back for dinner with family by 7 pm (but no longer home for lunch), Mr Carter is depicted as having much more of rough and tumble of trade-offs and bargains than he would like.

He is a voracious reader; he perused items totalling 1,384 pages one recent week, his secretary recorded.

He is rather proud of completing a recent speed-reading course with his family; and the Carters now rip through the words a minute. The final examination consisted of reading, in one evening, three books, including *Of Mice and Men*.

Mr Carter is fond of self-improvement, we are told. His secretary gives him an index of

the records she feeds into the hi-fi set, including both popular and classical music, so that Mr Carter can make mental notes of what he hears while speeding through the documents.

His very close assistants are Mr Hamilton Jordan and Mr Jody Powell, both youthful, loyal retainers from his Georgia days. They are always around.

The scathing comments are exchanges with Mr Jordan, the Treasury Secretary, and Dr Charles Schultze, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, have sent the President a memorandum insisting that they be consulted in full, and in advance, before any final decisions are made on the President's controversial energy policy which is to be announced next week.

"They treat me like I'm an idiot," Carter says to Jordan. "Do they think I would make a policy without consulting the other members of the Cabinet?"

"I gather you think you're competent to do the job?" Jordan asks with a grin.

The *Time* reporter was not, it seems, permitted inside a meeting on the energy policy.

It lasted five and a half hours, with the President taking an

active part for three and a half hours. Interestingly included, apart from the policy and liaison men, were Mr Jordan and Mr Powell.

Dr James Schlesinger, the Energy Adviser and formulator of the apparently rough policy, was the butt of the meeting, but he could look after himself.

They were talking about raising prices for energy, and the political fallout. Mr Carter was admiring. "They really took a lot of shots at Schlesinger but he defended himself well. He's a very smart man."

The other Cabinet officer slighted was Mr Cyrus Vance, Secretary of State. Dr Zbigniew Brzezinski, the National Security Adviser, came in to say that

The Algerians are interested in better relations with us."

This prompted Mr Carter to telephone Vice-President Mondale. "With an edge of irritation in his voice, Carter says 'I want to tell you [Vance] and Zbig that I want them to move in every possible way to get Somalia to be our friend. We're just sitting around,' he tells Mondale. 'I've told Cy that before.'"

From Nicholas Ashford
Maputo, April 12

Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, flew from Maputo to Cape Town tonight for the most crucial part of his southern African tour after a day of talks with leaders in Mozambique that Dr Owen described as "very successful."

It is now evident that his discussions with the South African and Rhodesian prime ministers in Cape Town tomorrow will decide whether it is worth pushing ahead with his proposals to hold a new independence conference on Rhodesia, and whether he will extend his present journey to include Salisbury.

After the completion of the second leg of his tour, Dr Owen appeared satisfied with the way his talks had gone in Tanzania and Mozambique, in spite of some hard talking yesterday with Mr Robert Mugabe, one of the joint leaders of the Rhodesian Patriotic Front. He had expected greater resistance to his suggestions.

Briefing journalists on his RAF VC10 on leaving Maputo, Dr Owen said he had found President Machel "very positive" on two of the central issues they had discussed.

"These were the need for greater American involvement in helping to underwrite any constitutional package that may eventually be agreed upon, and acceptance by the Mozambicans that a new constitutional conference must include the four nationalist groups who attended last year's Geneva talks," he said.

These are the two organizations headed by Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Mugabe, who make up the Patriotic Front alliance, the United African National Council led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, and the faction headed by the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole.

According to British sources, both President Machel and President Nyerere, of Tanzania, whom Dr Owen saw yesterday, are prepared to qualify their support to the Patriotic Front, the force that is carrying out the fighting in Rhodesia, recognizing that all shades of opinion should be represented at a conference to decide the country's constitutional future.

During his discussions Dr Owen emphasized that the British Parliament could not be expected to approve a new constitution for Rhodesia unless

everyone had the opportunity to have their voice heard.

This is an issue, however, over which Dr Owen and Mr Mugabe were in disagreement when they met yesterday. Mr Mugabe laid down a set of conditions under which the Patriotic Front would be prepared to take part in a constitutional conference.

One was that the talks should be between only Britain and the Patriotic Front. This is a problem which the British delegation does not regard as intractable, however. The feeling is that, if a conference was called, both Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo would be there, whoever else was present. There is no way the British side could agree to deal with the Patriotic Front alone.

Cape Town: Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, said here today that he would go to the talks tomorrow with Dr Owen and Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, with an open mind.

In an interview published this afternoon, he said he would be trying tomorrow to convince Dr Owen to visit Rhodesia because this was clearly the best way of solving the issue. "If he is not pre-

pared, then I question his honesty and the purpose and seriousness of his visit," he said.

Salisbury: A white Rhodesian train guard was killed yesterday by African nationalist guerrillas who attacked the goods train on which he was working. The attack occurred near Bannockburn, nearly halfway between Gwelo, in the south, and Reurenga, which is on Rhodesia's direct rail link with South Africa.

The dead guard was named as Mr Keith Feldman, aged 20, and single, from Bulawayo, according to the military command disclosing the attack. The guerrillas used small arms but unconfirmed reports said he had been abducted, also said.

In another Easter incident guerrillas in the south-western operational area abducted or recruited about 150 black civilians and took them, under armed escort, across the border into Botswana.

There have been several similar actions in the south-west in recent months, some of them involving schoolchildren, and they are believed to have been carried out by the military wing of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu), whose president is Mr Nkomo.

32 narrow escapes in Zagreb air zone

From Dassa Trevisan
Zagreb, April 11

Thirty-two narrow escapes between airlines were reported in the Zagreb air space during the last five years, two senior flight control officers on trial here disclosed today. In that time Zagreb became the second busiest air crossroads in Europe.

Eight air traffic controllers on duty last September when a British Airways Trident and a Yugoslav DCS collided, killing 176 people, are charged with negligence and failure to obey instructions, coming late to work and not using the standard English terminology.

Ante Delic, chief of the regional air traffic control, said that the complaints received and acted upon came mainly from Yugoslav pilots. Two controllers were dismissed for carelessness and for lack of training.

During this five-year period there have been 700,000 flights in the Zagreb air region.

Both Mr Delic and Milan Munjas, in charge of the air traffic controllers, denied being slack over rules and discipline, but said the rapidly expanding air traffic did create problems particularly as regards trained personnel and technical equipment.

According to Mr Delic, the Zagreb centre needed 40 trained air controllers and was making do with 30.

In this respect, Yugoslavia was behind other advanced European states, but since the disaster this state of affairs had been radically improved.

Mr Delic described Mr Tasic, the chief defendant, as an excellent air controller. He recalled him saving an aircraft from disaster by warning the pilot that the undercarriage was not down only seconds before it landed.

At the time of the disaster, Mr Tasic was alone as his assistant, also on trial, was 10 minutes late for work. He was handling 11 flights, regarded as the maximum, but thought he could cope.

The trial is expected to last well into May.

Mrs Thatcher hears English lesson

From David Bonavia
Shanghai, April 12

Mrs Margaret Thatcher attended an English lesson at Shanghai's main university today during which articles from *The Times* were used as teaching material.

Mrs Thatcher and her party, who are to be hosted by the British Embassy in Shanghai, heard the English teacher tell his class about two articles from *The Times*, which described the bad state of consumer goods and service industries in the Soviet Union.

Although the performance had been planned in advance, the exchange between teacher and students was quite lively by comparison with the stilted and carefully rehearsed English class which Mr Edward Heath was shown during his visit to Peking University in 1974. The choice of teaching material was presumably in response to Mrs Thatcher's known anti-Soviet attitudes.

The *Times*—an issue of last February—was also on display in the students' reading room together with *The Guardian Weekly* and the *New Statesman*, but it was not clear how many students saw fit to read them.

Mrs Thatcher, who holds a degree in chemistry, spent nearly an hour looking at scientific instruments and mentioning research workers closely on technical matters.

The campus of Peking University had been cleaned recently, according to informed sources who said that garbage

had been piling up there for several months. It appears that the more lax political atmosphere prevailing since the passage of the so-called "gang of four" in October affected the students' normal zeal in cleaning their own campus.

British journalists were later taken to the Shanghai docks and given a detailed briefing which the British Embassy tried to incite the people's militia, through the trade unions, to rise against the Peking leadership headed by Chairman Hua Kuo-feng.

Spokesmen at the docks said that the new disgraced city leadership succeeded for some five days in preventing the people of Shanghai from learning that Chiang Ching, Chairman Mao Tse-tung's widow, and other members of the "gang of four" had been arrested on the instructions of Chairman Hua.

The people learnt the truth through foreign radio broadcasts and demanded the dismissal of the gang's supporters who controlled the city, the spokesman said.

Commons question: Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, is facing questions in the Commons about Mrs Thatcher's visit to China.

Mr Douglas Hogg, Labour MP for Nelson and Colne, is asking questions about whether the Opposition Leader was given a Foreign Office briefing before she left, whether she would report back on her visit, and what effect the minister thought her speeches would have on British-Soviet and British-Chinese relations.

Mr Young sees good in Cuban role

Washington, April 12—Mr Andrew Young, the American representative at the United Nations, said today that America should not be alarmed by communist activity in Africa.

At a meeting with journalists Mr Young repeated his assertion that the estimated 13,000 Cubans in Angola were playing a stabilising role, and added that they were protecting American-owned Gulf Oil installations in Cabinda from attacks launched from Zaire. —Reuter.

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As shown in H.M. Government tables March 1977



-with Europe's most advanced filter.

PS Extra Mild King Size
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LOW TAR GROUP As defined in H.M. Government Tables.

EVERY PACKET CARRIES A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING

Mrs Gandhi takes blame but keeps party reins

From Our Correspondent
Delhi, April 12

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister of India, today accepted full responsibility for the Congress Party's loss in the recent general election. Addressing a meeting of Congress working committee, the party's highest policy-making body, Mrs Gandhi said: "I unreservedly accept responsibility for the defeat."

Before opening the three-day meeting to analyse the defeat, Mrs Gandhi circulated a letter which said it was a matter of sorrow that Congress had lost, but it is good that the change from one government to the other has been peaceful and orderly.

"We respectfully bow to the verdict of the people and wish the new government stability and success in the service of the people," she wrote.

Before the working committee meeting, there were accusations of counter-accusations. Mrs Gandhi and her followers denied that there should be no rest on the elections; their opponents said responsibility for defeat should be placed early on the guilty party.

By Mr Sanjay Gandhi, Mrs Gandhi's son, and Mr Bansi Lal, former Defence Minister, it is now more or less certain that Mr Brahmananda Reddy, the

former Home Minister, will be the next President of the Congress Party. He is from the south, where the party swept the Lok Sabha polls, and he is said to be acceptable to Mrs Gandhi.

Mr Reddy will take over from Mr Dev Kanta Baruah who, under a compromise formula, will be allowed to continue until the all-India Congress committee session that is being convened next month.

There was a belated move in favour of Mr Y. B. Chavan, the former External Affairs Minister, as Congress Chief, combining the post of Congress president with that of leader of the parliamentary party, but there was very little support for it.

One thing that has become evident is that Mrs Gandhi still has the biggest following in the party and wants to use her opportunity to crowd out the pro-Communist Party of India group from Congress. She is said to think that Congress lost because of the "progressives" in the party.

Mr Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister, confirmed today to Lord Thomson, the former Commonwealth Secretary and EEC Commissioner, who is Mr Callaghan's personal envoy, that he will attend the Commonwealth conference in London in June.

Doubt raised by KLM crew about runway clearance

New York, April 12—One of KLM pilots killed in the island's worst airline disaster in Canary Islands last month said a colleague in the cockpit whether the Pan American jet was cleared for take-off.

It was the first evidence that anyone in the crew might have had doubts about whether the takeoff was cleared.

One source said the question was answered with a Dutch-accented "Yes," but another said the answer was unintelligible. In any case, the Dutch airliner continued its takeoff. The last words recorded in the KLM cockpit, the sources revealed, were: "God damn."

The crash happened at Tenerife on March 27. A total of 577 people were killed. New York Times News Service.

had been obtained from a cockpit playback of the crash-resistant cockpit voice recorder retrieved from the burnt-out wreckage of the airliner.

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SPORT

Rugby Union

McKay rescues Barbarians just as their cause seems forlorn

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Newport 22

As a whole and absorbing a

game of rugby as I have seen all

season came to a remarkable finish

in injury time at Rodney Parade

yesterday when a try by McKay,

coolly converted by Hare from

wide out on the left, achieved an

honourable draw for the Barbarians

after their cause had looked

forlorn.

Some six minutes of ordinary

time remained when the Bar-

barians, with a try by their French

(Tinker, Skreia, pulled up to

within six points. About three

were left when they seemed to

know away their last chance—

Merideth, by some aberration,

strange indeed for so capable an

all-round footballer, was

blatantly with the Newport full-

back with Ripley, as well as Mc-

Kay, quite unthreatened outside

him.

An honest scoreline—not a

passing goal in sight (or at least

not landed)—left both sides with

three goals and a try, and New-

port with their ground record

remaining intact this season. New-

port, who rested Burcher and

"reath Evans, their loose attack

port with their ground record

remaining intact this season. New-

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remaining intact this season. New-

port, who rested Burcher and

tries by his magnificent tackling

—twice moving across to the other

wing to foil Willis in the first

half, and once despatching his own

half, the resolute Ken Davies,

just touch at the corner in the

second.

The build-up to his piece de

resistance looked unpromising as

a pass went down in the centre

behind a Barbarian line-out won

by Wilkinson, but Skreia and

Selwyn Williams, calmly

switched a loose ball to the short

side. McKay, following up his

precise clip ahead at great speed,

tried to try from under the

noses of half the Newport pack.

Beaumont and Wilkinson had

lost no time in making their pres-

ence felt in the opening phase.

When they drove through a New-

port drop out Selwyn Williams

kicked ahead. Gammell

saw his chance in the follow-

up and provided an inside scoring

pass for Wilkinson. Hare had an

easy conversion. Now, against in-

sistent Newport, he was not just

McKay's cover, but to Hare and

Horton for the composure and

length of their line kicking.

A Leicester scrum was a very

landable penalty for Newport but

eventually a nice kick by Rogers,

an accomplished stand off, set up

a line-out deep in Barbarian

territory and the hooker, Jones,

pounced on a wayward pass by

Beaumont for their first try. The

Leicester scrum was a very

landable penalty for Newport but

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Leicester scrum was a very

landable penalty for Newport but

eventually a nice kick by Rogers,

an accomplished stand off, set up

a line-out deep in Barbarian

dummy inside for a try converted

by Leighton Davies.

Newport stretched their lead

to 15-6 when Headon forced his

way over by the posts for another

try, converted by their full back.

Then Corless, following some un-

likely Barbarian manoeuvre in

midfield, of a sudden sent Mer-

edith whistling home from a long

way out.

Ken Davies had been hurried into

the corner flag when a missed pass

by Rogers behind a Newport

scrummage, and a clever little

feed, popped up inside by Headon,

had Leighton Davies careering

straight through for a try that he

himself converted. That made it

15-10, and curiously, seemingly,

for the Barbarians. Such was home

confidence that a voice was heard

to adjure the Lions selectors to

send Newport to New Zealand.

Certainly at this stage, a Bar-

barian revival looked improbable.

But Ripley mounted a thrust on

the short side of their scrummage

and found Wilkinson at his elbow,

and Skreia took an inside pass

from his captain to storm through

from 40 yards out for the most

popular visiting try of the after-

noon. Hare, some while before,

had nudged a short range penalty

wide of the posts, but he now

kicked an imposing goal. And

there set the stage for an increas-

ingly hectic climax.

Newport: P. Davies, K. Davies, R.

Rogers, S. Phillips, C. Smith, C. W.

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Football



Peter Ward (left) and Jeff Bourne scored two goals apiece for Brighton and Crystal Palace respectively.

Millwall's approach more direct

By Norman de Mesquita


Luton Town 1

Millwall 2

Luton Town's promotion

challenge fails—and it looks now

as though it will—they can point



Property

also on page 6

subjects that matter

For dips too. Combine one (8oz) carton cottage cheese with one (5oz) carton soured cream and then add garlic and chopped herbs, or horsed'rier relish and chopped parsley to taste. Serve with crisp carrot sticks and trimmed spring onions for dipping and you need not worry about your waistline.

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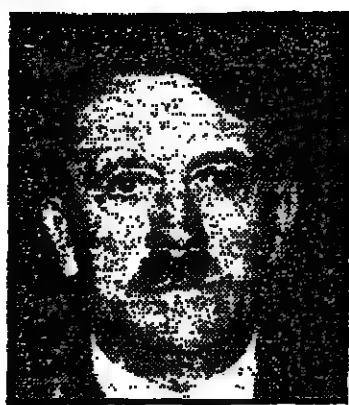
Bernard Levin

At least Spain now has the chance to reject a different form of dictatorship

Ex Iberia semper aliquid novi. Not so long ago that strange, square peninsula was the most stable political area on earth, its two governments headed by the world's dictators; one of them had held power for nearly 40 years, the other for even longer. Indeed, beside Salazar and Franco, there was a newcomer and Mao an upstart. Hitler himself, on their scale, had come and gone in an eye-blink, and even Stalin's rule had lacked endurance.

What is more, although it was generally recognized that rule as personal as that of the two Iberian dictators must inevitably lead, on their death, to a period of considerable danger (at the very least) for their two countries, the implications were scarcely faced elsewhere; it seemed almost as though the expert analysts had become hypnotized into a subconscious belief in the immortality of the Spanish and Portuguese tyrants, a belief desperately and tenaciously held by the dictators themselves, driven to it as they were by their own fear of death, itself demonstrated in their obsessive refusal to hand over to even the most trustworthy successor.

This fear throws an interesting light on the minds of those who wield absolute temporal power. The very same reluctance to face the inevitable, with exactly the same consequences, can be seen today in Yugoslavia; even the commentators have been so hypnotized by the death of Tito, like Franco, has had to convince himself that his own tenure, even if it may somehow be postponed if he continues to behave as though it will never happen. (Considering the physical courage undeniably possessed by both of them, this *timor mortis* can hardly be explained in other than the pathological terms that I am normally careful to avoid. But the conclusion is surely obvious: Franco and Tito, with their striking similarities of character and regime, both long ago realized in their hearts that their political systems were



The great dictators: Hitler, Stalin, Tito, Mao and (below) the most enduring of them all, Salazar and Franco.

built upon sand because they ignored the deepest truths of human reality, and since their own deaths thus came to symbolize the impermanence of their political philosophies, they were obliged to shut out the possibility from their minds.

The Thousand Year Reich lasted for twelve; the Portuguese dictatorship, believed impervious to earthquakes, was swept away in a single day; and now Spain — Spain! — moves step by step towards democracy, where hardly more than a veil upon the flag of Franco's rule still flows without a single rent in its fabric.

Step by step indeed; no student of politics, let alone history, can fail to rub his eyes in wonder at news that Franco's own political organization, through which he has wielded such absolute and unquestioned power, has now been dissolved. The suppression of the *Movimiento* must have come, to Salazar, as the *Quasador* had been abolished; nothing could have better demonstrated the determination of the King and the provisional government to fulfil their promise to move Spain towards true political freedom.

But an even more astonishing action was to follow: it was announced at the weekend that the Communist Party of Spain was to be legalized, and permitted to contest the forthcoming elections. The Government had clearly and understandably come with considerable



reluctance to this decision; at first, in a subtly Wilsonian evasion of responsibility, they asked the Supreme Court to rule on the question. The Supreme Court, however, which was no more eager than most people (I except Socrates) to drink a poisoned chalice, ruled firmly that it had nothing to do with them, but was purely political matter. The Government pondered... a week, then, and then they decided.

Little guidance was available from precedent. Such questions did not arise, they had no time to— in Portugal, in the superficially comparable Federal Germany, which banned all totalitarian parties, Nazi and Communist alike, the origins and position of the new state meant that its problems were unique. Spain was a heretofore We can dismiss the argument

that the Government's promise of freedom for Spain would have been shown up as mere deceit if the Communist Party had remained banned. For a democratic country to suppress a totalitarian organization, except in times of crisis as grave as war, would certainly weaken the democratic fabric itself. For a state which has not known anything like true liberty—though of course Spain has long had a degree of freedom far greater than that of any Communist country—for over a third of a century, and is moving away from totalitarian rule, the legalization of a party pledged to impose a totalitarianism of its own presents a dilemma of a different order altogether. (It will be surprised from the way I put it that I am less than wholly convinced of the genuineness of the Spanish Communist Party's

conversion to democracy. Such a surmise would be correct.) And yet the risk surely had to be taken. Not because a refusal to take it would have displaced the Spanish Communist Party, nor because that organization speaks for a considerable number of Spaniards. Nor was the risk justified on mere balance — of — disadvantage grounds, though probably the campaign of subversion and even violence likely to follow a refusal might well have been more damaging to Spain than open Communist political activity, including proselytising and participation in the elections.

For what would have been implied by the absence of the alternative? Obviously — but this is not very important — that the present rulers of Spain fear for the success of their slow march to democracy. Well they might; it is not only the threat from a legal Communist Party that they must fear, but a reaction from the embittered Francoists who see their power vanishing, and are tempted to try to seize it back before it is too late. But there is something deeper.

The argument that underlies a fear of lifting the ban on such organizations as the Communist Party is one which implicitly rests on the unfairness of Spaniards to sample the wine of democracy without dilution. Ironically, it was the argument for years in countries like Britain that the followers of Franco, and it is exactly parallel to the one used by the defenders of Mr Vorster, the

apologists for communist states, and the supporters of black dictatorship in Africa.

Democracy, we are told, is "not suitable" for... fill in to taste. The Russians have never known democracy, and besides, their temperament is such that they wouldn't even want it. The Chinese are even more remarkable people — they actively despise and indignantly reject (all eight hundred million of them) such disgusting notions as free elections and a multiplicity of published opinions. In South Africa, of course, the black population, charming in its way, is utterly childlike, by no means ready for even a limited say in its own life. As for Africans in one-party Tanzania, one-party Angola, one-party Mozambique, one-party Ethiopia, one-party — well almost every black-ruled African state — they have the opposite quality: they are so astoundingly sophisticated and mature that they realize how unimportant are the forms of democracy, which can safely be left to the effete Europeans while they prosper and advance under the autocratic rule of their black bosses.

And so the Spaniards, emerging from the long twilight of Franco's rule, must first be taught to cherish freedom, lest they cast it away without realizing its value.

I do not believe it. I believe the Spaniards, like those of East Germany and Iran, Rhodesia and Cuba, Libya and Vietnam, Tibet and Argentina, are capable of forming their own sound judgments on a range of political choices, be they so wide; even if it is so wide that it includes totalitarianism of both left and right. The Portuguese people very nearly fell into the grip of Communism; but when, in the nick of time, they were given the opportunity to vote for or against the Communists, they voted overwhelmingly against. The situation in Spain is considerably more propitious than it was next door, and I do not believe that the Spanish people will choose differently. I am sure they will now have the chance to demonstrate as much.

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Why the opium poppy may bloom and strawberry beds lie fallow

There are strawberries growing in northern Thailand and two West German policemen on duty in Afghanistan. The connection is opium because the strawberries were planted as a substitute crop for the opium poppy and the policemen are advising the Afghans on better control of the drug.

However, there are now fears that there may soon be little money for future strawberry crops or penitentiary policemen. The two projects were financed from the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control but this conduit for international cooperation against drug abuse is facing financial crisis.

The latest report of the International Narcotics Control Board warned: "There is a grave danger that multilateral assistance will be curtailed if international bodies and in particular the Fund fail to obtain essential resources from a growing number of donors; this would be a severe blow to international narcotics control."

The blow could come later this month on Capitol Hill in Washington if a number of congressmen fulfil their threats to cut back American contributions to the fund.

The way they see it the Americans have been picking up the bill benefiting other countries who also have drug abuse problems, but are reluctant to dig into their pockets. On a recent tour of Europe the congressmen castigated a number of countries for their paltry contributions.

There is no doubt the United States has been far and away the biggest contributor. Between the fund's foundation in 1971 and 1975 the Americans gave \$15m out of a total of \$19m in either contributions or promises. The next largest contributor was Canada with \$508,000 while the United Kingdom was some way down the list with \$335,000.

Given the size of the American drug problem — last year President Ford estimated there were 5,000 Americans dying

annually from drug abuse — it is not surprising there has been a large commitment. It is even less surprising when one considers the creation of the fund because the current figure shows the cost of the Americans' holts by their own petard.

The fund originated with the Nixon administration in Washington and not the UN building in New York. President Nixon and his advisers wanted to get at the roots of the drug problem but they found a number of key countries in the Third World were loath to accept funds and diplomatically embarrass themselves. The fund became the vehicle for American dollars.

Since then it has become a major instrument in a policy of fighting drug abuse on an international level. The fund has achieved important work in setting up crop substitution schemes in a number of countries. In Turkey an American-inspired ban on the opium poppy crop failed but the fund was used to set up successful controls for a legal crop to supply the world's needs for codeine.

But it has also received abuse for promoting projects of dubious value with too few controls on expenditure. It is a point, for example, to a project for organizing drug abuse statistics for countries with few statistical facilities. The end result was too sophisticated for most developed countries to manage.

The problems of accountability and budgeting control at an international level have been a major subject of debate for the past two years and have not helped attempts to spread the fund.

But most countries have had to plead economic restraint. The trouble is that any saving now may prove to be very expensive in the long run. In 1971 Western Europe could smugly plead that serious drug abuse was largely an American problem. In 1977 that is no longer the case.

Stewart Tendler

Czechs: still in the grip of the graveyard

Why is Czechoslovakia, after eight years of "consolidation" still waiting in vain for more liberal policies? Why has every attempt by the opposition to launch a dialogue with the ruling circles ended in an escalation of police terror, accompanied by a hate-filled smear campaign? Why is the regime so touchy when accused of failing to give its citizens basic human and civil rights? Why has its reaction to Charter 77 been based on the same old recipe: intensive police action combined with a propaganda campaign in the mass media reminiscent of Goebbels' Berlin, in the atmosphere of the trials with their political show trials?

In 1968 Czechoslovakia attempted to introduce profound structural social reforms. This process was violently interrupted by the Soviet invasion in August. Since then, the nation has been the victim of the consequences of two decades of totalitarian rule and a system imposed on the country from abroad, which was in keeping with the requirements of the Cold War and the traditions of Czechoslovakia.

The profound crisis that gave rise to the Prague Spring has not been resolved. Czechoslovak society remains sick. The country was left with the political, economic and legal reforms scrapped and condemned and those who supported them turned into outcasts in the Czechoslovak version of apartheid. Free speech and the expression of public opinion have been suppressed, education forced into the straitjacket of conformity.

The people who today rule Czechoslovakia have tried to impose the "calm and order" of the graveyard, putting the

clock back 10 or 20 years to the very situation which gave rise to the political crisis of the sixties and to the Prague Spring, which was its result. By doing so they have paralysed society and jeopardised its future politically, economically and morally.

This ruling class has driven society into a blind alley. Their sole aim is to stay in power as long as possible and to maintain the status quo at all cost. In this situation, the question of human and civil rights has become crucial. The very survival of the system depends on their suppression. The regime feels (indeed is) in mortal danger if it admits that the citizens of Czechoslovakia have, for instance, the right freely to express their opinions, and freely to assemble and organize. It is in mortal danger once it loses the ability to enforce obedience by the threat of loss of employment, of barring entry to secondary school and university for the children of numerous citizens, and the many other means it resorts to for this purpose.

That is why even the slightest attempt at voicing an opinion at variance with the party's monopoly of "truth" — a collection of poems, a novel, a pop song, a leaflet informing people of their rights in an election, a letter from a group of relatives demanding the release of political prisoners, or a petition such as Charter 77 — literally touches the central nervous system of the totalitarian regime. That is why every expression of civil or spiritual freedom acquires the guise of an act of opposition even when its originators have no such intention, as in the case of Charter 77. That is why the regime's response to a demand that it should respect human

and civil rights can only be yet more infringements of those rights. If what the Prague propaganda machine said in January was really so, if this were just a case of a small group of people trying to defend their own narrow interests, there would be little to get excited about. Injustices and wrongs can be found in any society. But in Czechoslovakia it is the whole of society that suffers, and it is its very future that is at stake.

Czechoslovak society as a whole rejected the totalitarian regime in 1968, demanding a reformed, democratic, pluralistic system. The ruling class had to resort to a massive application of power to suppress this movement: in the years that followed it succeeded in enforcing or buying the obedience of some, inducing others to desert and deserting many among the rest of hope. These methods of manipulation have, however, turned against the rulers, who realize that they lack the support of the population. They are afraid of the silent and seemingly apolitical and consumer-minded majority might do if granted fundamental human and civil rights.

This majority is the submerged, larger part of the iceberg. They have grinded their teeth, they have adopted the ministry of officially proclaimed lies and hypocries in order to lead a comfortable life, but also because they can see no other way out. Afraid to lose the little they have, they turn up at Day parades, put out Soviet flags, and some even sign statements commending Charter 77 without so much as having read it. But in private they grumble and listen to foreign radio

stations to find out what is going on abroad as well as in their own country. In their subconscious there is a growing anger and hatred directed at those who humiliate them and at themselves for allowing themselves to be humiliated and corrupted. This is the explosive charge waiting for the next acute outbreak of crisis.

The tip of this iceberg are the people willing to take the risk of saying "no". They are neither political fanatics, nor are they all intellectuals. They share an awareness of their human and civil responsibility. They act on the strength of their conviction that what they do is in harmony with the true feelings of that silent majority, that they express its sentiments until, as in 1968, public opinion makes itself heard again.

The millions of people who in 1968 expressed their desire to live as free human beings, who in August, 1968, protested against the Soviet occupation, who in their hundreds of thousands marched through the streets in January, 1969, to honour the memory of Jan Palach; the crowds whose childish joy at Czechoslovakia's ice hockey victory over the USSR gave expression to their political sentiments — they have not been silenced without a fight, but have merely been pacified for a time.

The present rulers of Czechoslovakia are convinced that if they succeed in silencing the formerly politically active section of the population and the two generations of intellectuals who in the sixties formulated and tried to implement the programme of democratization, and if at the same time, they manage to indoctrinate,

corrupt and manipulate the young and cut them off from the sources of information, they will have triumphed for the next 20 or more years. They believe that if they can cut Czechoslovakia off from the rest of the world, from European culture and its spiritual heritage, they will build a most which it will become impossible to bridge.

Charter 77 derived from a conviction that the struggle for human and civil rights had to be fought out at home, inside Czechoslovakia, and that no nation could expect freedom through outside intervention. At the same time supporters of the Charter are aware that their struggle is in keeping with the spirit of détente and with international conventions, especially the Final Act of the Helsinki conference. This made certain aspects of the internal systems of the signatory states a matter for international attention. It can succeed only if the free citizens of the world lend their support to those in Czechoslovakia who do not want their country to remain an ice-land of oppression and lack of freedom in the heart of Europe.

Vilem Precan

Dr Precan, born in 1933, is a Czech historian. He was one of the authors of the Black Book which documented the Soviet-led invasion of 1968 and its immediate aftermath. He was dismissed from the Historical Institute in Prague in 1970 and legal proceedings were started against him the following year, when the Black Book was declared subversive. In 1975 he appealed to the World Congress of Historians in San Francisco. In July, 1976, he was allowed to emigrate to West Germany, where he now lives.

Britons in a tight spot

The British love to travel, but not everyone comes back exactly on the day planned. Some stay a few weeks, others several years. And all at the host country's expense. For this is the season when the local British consular missions are desperate for telephone calls, probably from some remote police station, quite likely in the middle of the night, from a traveller whose holiday has come to an abrupt end.

At the latest count, made at the end of last month, there were 568 Britons in detention around the world. In Africa, 34 in the Indian sub-continent, South East Asia and the Far East, 18 in the Middle East, 69 in the Americas and no fewer than 355 in Europe, plus seven in the eastern block.

How do we get into so much trouble? Part of the explanation lies in the European total, 141 have been sentenced for offences concerning drugs and another 88 are awaiting trial. By contrast the next category, which covers embezzlement, fraud, theft, burglary and robbery, comes to only 44 sentenced and 21 awaiting trial.

In Africa, people are more likely to get into trouble for "security offences", wittingly or not, as has happened to Miss Jane Wright, whose boat ran aground in Somalia. She has been held for 21 weeks on far without the British consul being granted access, while the Somali authorities proceed with their own inquiries.

The figures for Britons in jail abroad have been fairly constant for the past 10 years. The consul concerned does what he can to advise people about legal representation, helps to arrange the transfer of funds and notifies the Foreign Office in London. It is not always easy getting



The Tyler family: unorthodox procedures.

people out, even though they may merely have acted foolishly or carelessly, rather than with criminal intent. As the little pamphlet entitled "Essential Information" for holders of United Kingdom passports remarks, "Hobbies like aircraft, train or ship spotting, and even bird watching, are liable to misinterpretation and may lead to your being arrested for spying."

The temptation, when British citizens languish abroad, is to thump on the table, summon the ambassador of the country concerned to the Foreign Office, and fire off a strong protest. This seldom works, for not so much that a British passport does not command quite the respect it may have done in the old days, rather that new countries have their own traditions and their own sensitivities. In the case of the Tyler family, seized by a guerrilla group in the wilds of Ethiopia, it took months of what the Foreign Office calls unorthodox procedures, behind the scenes, to secure their safe release.

The consular department comes into the review of Foreign

representation which the Central Policy Review Staff is now completing. It seems to be of the opinion that rather too much help is given to people who get into trouble by their own fault. People expect expert assistance from the government, perhaps more than other countries provide. The consul is not a saint, but he still has a "soft touch". He is there to help people who have no one else to turn to.

There are 47 consular staff at home and 317 abroad, plus 958 locally engaged staff. Their efforts clearly have to be spread very thin, considering that last year British people spent 146,000,000 days abroad. The number of places where consular assistance is provided can be reduced, perhaps, but that will not reduce the calls. On the contrary, it will mean more work for the other consuls. Certainly if the service is cut, as a result of the Tank's recommendations, travellers must realize that they will get less help.

David Spanier

Diplomatic Correspondent

The Times Diary

Trying to lift the frog curse

Last time Robin Young wrote about TA, or transactional analysis, he suggested that it was just a fancy name for people being nice to one another. It is a system of psychotherapy which encourages practitioners to give "strokes" or emotional rewards, like a kind word or a nice smile, to get desired responses.

Now a centre has been set up in a house in north London and last week a TA Festival was held there. It was led by two Americans who "have done much to spread Transactional Analysis and innovative psychotherapeutic attitudes and techniques".

Young joined the 30 or so participants who paid £2 to attend the inaugural evening session, engagingly entitled The Frog Curse. He reports: "As we took our seats we were welcomed by a 'training associate' who pinned on each of us a lapel badge depicting a large green frog, to which she added our first names. This idea, she explained, was that we were about to hear how we

could be transmuted from the mainly awkward frogs we had become in life into the beautiful princes and princesses we would wish to be in our favourite dreams or fairy stories.

Larry Mart, a cheery man wearing an open-necked shirt, a necklace and turned-back cuffs, was a collaborator of the late Eric Berne, author of *Games People Play* and originator of TA. He and his colleague, Gayle Palmer, a woman of carefully cosmetic appearance, swung into their presentation at breathtaking speed, announcing that they could quickly tell just from looking at a person how his or her parents had come to conceive. They shocked us even more by saying they wanted us to act out the various scenarios they described.

Mart called for a volunteer to have his manner of conception and personal attitude to sex analysed on sight. I stood in a corner and was quickly told that when my parents conceived me one was acting in deception and the other from

resignation. Resignation, I am sorry to say, showed most in me.

A woman called Pat refused to play these sort of games. "I really don't want to," she protested. She was thus labelled un-OK in the parlance of the technique.

"We believe," explained Mart, adding as an aside that this was where they parted company from the Judeo-Christian ethic and Sigmund Freud, "that everyone is born an OK person. But then they are scripted and programmed so that they are forced to be a certain way. When they are locked in their scripts we say they are frogs in the frog pond."

The definitive programming, we learnt, was in our "poly-wog" years, from nought to six. Mart and Palmer talked of different manners of bestrengthening and potty-training, which we were called upon to act out. Finally we were told that if we regularly slept eight hours a night, and "spaced out" our days with trying to keep busy, eating well and drinking rather a lot then we had a problem. We were "undernourished", getting too little of our "favourite currency values", deprived of which we might become suicidal. There would be more revelations, we were promised, at a

sex and intimacy workshop later in the week, price £15. We could also learn to nurture ourselves, if we were sleeping and eating too well, in treatment groups at £4 each per evening, a mind and body workshop, or a 24-hour experiential marathon at £30. We should emerge as OK Princes and Princesses, the Frog Curse lifted.

Kids' stuff

A poster depicting an onion fetched £140 at Phillips yesterday, while a matching picture of a tomato went for £130. Fine art experts regarded the prices as good, an accurate reflection of the current value of vegetables. The prices also gave an indication of current levels of pocket money, which seems to be escaping the social contract.

The auction, of 312 lots of stamps and cards donated by viewers of the children's television programme *Blue Peter*, raised a commendable £18,193.60p for the programme's "Lifetime Lebanon" appeal, which will go to provide medical aid and rehabilitation for young victims of the civil war there. Viewers have already provided a medical team and supplies to help children injured and made homeless by the fighting. Undoubtedly the best bargain in the children's section

of the sale went to a young man called Adam who, in spite of his father's efforts, won his own down, picked up a prize set of old Eagle Annuals, donated by the children's television presenter John Craven, for £420.

In the more serious section, dealers showed a lot of interest in the huge assortment of postcards. The highest price of the day, £280, was paid for a bundle of 2,000 cards including a number by Donald McGill, the master of the rural seaside card. Another dealer paid £75 for a single card. Ronnie Barker, an avid postcard buff, donated an album from his personal collection, which made £50.

The young bidders who had sat patiently under the hot television lights for two hours were rewarded with easter eggs, a small token of the auctioneers' esteem for their saving the onion and tomato cards for the nation.

Joker

Spillie Milligan opened Puffin books' exhibition for children at the Mall Galleries yesterday, and proved so popular that any jokes he may have made were inaudible at the back of an admiring throng of parents and children. The children's own jokes, however, were on display for all to see, chalked up among the exhibits.

We have found the ideal

prospective candidate, gentlemen: Stan, Balliol, Felting.



Groan-provoking samples of childish humour had been culled from thousands sent in to the Puffin Club, along with the competition entries which provide most of the exhibits on display. Some, said an organizer, were very advanced educationally. For example: "What is copper nitrate? Over time pay for a policeman." She also approved the surrealist imagina-

tion of: "What is air? — A balloon with the skin taken off."

The children visiting the exhibition, at any rate, seemed to read each other's jokes more avidly than they did the short stories and essays which had won prizes in their competitions.

Cheesed off

The head of an international trading company has written to tell me of the dreadful time he and three others (two of them Americans) had at the restaurant of the Carlton Tower Hotel in London one recent Sunday. The food, he alleges, was badly cooked, the portions stingy and "the service more akin to a railway café."

I get such letters from time to time and do not often follow them up. Some restaurants are terrible all the time and others have off days with varying frequency. Since I have not eaten at the Carlton Tower for several years, I am unsure into which of those categories it fits. But what intrigued me about this plaintiff's letter was the prices he quoted. For two first courses, four main courses, two scoops of ice cream, four coffees and a bottle of Chateau rosé wine, plus 12½ per cent service, the bill came to £40.

And a single cheeseburger was a breathtaking £4.

When I checked with the hotel they said he had underpriced it. Their cheeseburgers are £4.25. The spokeswoman explained that they contained 12-oz of best ground sirloin, 2oz of cheese, plus fried onions, tomato and coleslaw (but not chips, which are 75p extra).

It was true, she admitted, that a cheeseburger at a hamburger joint would cost much less. "But what you're paying for is being in the Rib Room, one of the best restaurants in London. We use best quality meat, and some people say there's just too much for one person to eat."

Which shows how people's views can differ, for the reader described the portions as "minuscule", the meal as a "sheer disgrace" and fumed: "An apology will not suffice."

PHS



THE OFFICE OF DPP

The office of Director of Public Prosecutions was created less than a century ago, in 1879. Its early years were bedevilled by controversy, much of it stemming from the personalities and policies of some of the less happy appointments to it. More recently, criticism of the DPP has centred on specific decisions he has taken, both to prosecute or to refrain from doing so, whether in individual cases or, more generally, in a particular area of the criminal law. There is no longer any respectable body of opinion which believes that the holder of the office shows partiality or unfairness to particular people, groups or classes. The retiring holder of the office, Sir Norman Skelhorn, has been completely free from any such allegations. To suggest, therefore, as Sir Peter Rawlinson has done, that with the appointment of a new DPP it would be appropriate to review the functions of the office, is not a criticism of Sir Norman or his recent predecessors.

Any such review would be bound to take place in the context of the current debate over the system of public prosecution in England and Wales. One view is that the system should be radically altered in favour of something like the Scottish procedure, with a procurator-fiscal figure in charge of all prosecutions, and the police playing no part at all in the decision whether or not to start criminal proceedings. A less radical proposal would introduce national uniformity in the prosecution process, which at present differs widely between the 41 police authorities. Often linked to that is a proposal for the appointment of area or regional DPPs.

Even without any reorganization of the system of public prosecution, there is a case for looking closely at the role of the DPP, for he is indeed a peculiar animal. Although appointed by the Home Secretary, he is responsible to the Attorney General

and through him, to Parliament (any claims which the Home Secretary used to have to be the DPP's master were removed, by statute, in 1946). The DPP's functions include taking decisions on whether or not to prosecute in certain cases or kinds of cases, or give his consent to a prosecution, as well as controlling and advising generally on the conduct of prosecutions and on questions of policy which arise.

Most of his duties and responsibilities are laid down by statute, the Prosecution of Offences Regulations 1946 being the most important. The DPP's consent to prosecute is required for all offences punishable by death (only one is left now, treason), for some serious common law offences, such as murder and conspiracy, and for some ninety-five separate offences which require his consent by statute. They include most sexual offences, obscene publications, illegal abortions, sedition, many serious offences against the person, all offences committed by police officers, some fraud and Companies Act infringements, and all matters involving possible extradition. There is also a motley group of offences requiring the DPP's consent to prosecute on such diverse subjects as underwater pipelines, water resources, trading with the enemy, aiding and abetting suicide, oil pollution, radio-active substances, reservoirs, football pools and the National Health Service. He must also authorize all withdrawals of prosecutions already commenced.

The DPP also advises government departments, the police and any other authorities either on their initiative or his own, "in any criminal matter which appears to him to be of importance or difficulty". That can include, for example, cases where the potential defendant is someone in the public eye or the holder of a senior position or is very old, cases where a difficult question of law is involved, and cases where there

are political implications. His discretion, on paper, is thus extremely wide and, in practice, difficult to question. Public reasons are never given. He is theoretically within his power to discontinue, as a matter of policy, prosecutions in an entire field of law, and some believe that he has done virtually that in the field of pornography. It must not be forgotten, however, that his refusal to consent to a prosecution does not prohibit a private citizen asserting his right to launch one, except in respect of those offences for the prosecution of which statute requires his consent.

How much discretion does he have in practice? His relationship with the Attorney General is perhaps the most shadowy area of his job. He is clearly stated by the 1946 regulations to be "in all matters... subject to the directions of the Attorney General". The consent of that law officer himself is required for some prosecutions, such as those involving terrorism or national security. Even where his consent is not specifically provided for, he has the final say on everything to do with criminal proceedings. Just as government departments and the police consult the DPP in difficult cases, so does the DPP consult the Attorney General when he thinks the case warrants it. In practice there is constant consultation between the two departments, at all levels.

The lack of clarity in that relationship must be a criticism of it. Who, in effect, makes the decisions, the DPP or the Attorney? It is right that different levels of criminal cases should be dealt with at different levels of decision-making authority. It can hardly be right that the public has no idea who is really responsible for prosecution policy, and what criteria are used. There is also a strong case for looking at all the DPP's functions together. Many of them arose haphazardly, and the ensemble seems to lack a rational basis.

LESSONS TO BE LEARNT FROM HEATHROW

In the normal way, a management that decided to call in blacked labour to ward off the effects of an industrial dispute, even an unofficial one, would invite a scolding from trade unionists generally, and damage its relationship even with the union that had declined to give its blessing to its striking members. Today things are by no means so clear-cut. British Airways took a risk when they arranged for other workers (trade unionists themselves) to make minor checks on aircraft usually done by the maintenance engineers who are in unofficial dispute with the airline.

Most of their colleagues on the day shift did respond yesterday to their appeal to stop work. Since the line's entire operations would soon be brought to a halt by a complete stoppage, the company's gamble may yet fail. But there have been no sounds of outrage from the TUC and the response of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has been ambiguous. Mr Rex Birch, immediately condemned the arrangement with the other airport unions in strong terms. But he stands well towards the left of the union's leadership, and Mr Scanlon's leader, seems to have found it possible to contain his own indignation. Formally, at least, the union did not give its assent to the arrangement. It was represented at the meeting where it was discussed and merely "dissociated itself" from the plan. Its embarrassment over the challenge to its authority is acute, however, and it is doubtful even now whether it will be ready to declare the maintenance men's action official.

The airline's agreement with the fourteen other unions at Heathrow does not involve

porters tinkering with aeroplanes. A proportion of maintenance engineers have been at work on the day shift throughout the dispute, enough to keep a number of planes in working order. The agreement enables other workers to make the relatively simple routine checks without which the planes could not be brought into use. Domestic and continental flights were affected most, because intercontinental planes can easily be serviced abroad, and because intercontinental flights were given precedence as a matter of policy.

The unofficial action is a ban on overtime and night shift working. Men scheduled for night work during the dispute have turned up in the morning and been turned away. The company is preparing dismissal notices for about a third of the Heathrow maintenance staff. The dispute is costing it about £3m a day in revenue. Sir Frank MacPhee, the chairman, declared last week (and Mr Harold Walker, Minister of State for Employment, hinted) that a prolonged dispute would affect official policy towards future public investment in the company.

With the Government against them, and the airline, and the other airport unions, with their own union uncertain and with some of their own colleagues apparently hesitant about walking out in solidarity, the shop stewards may seem isolated. In many ways they are, but in one sense they are not. Their grievance is the common complaint of almost every group of workers with special skills anywhere where the writ of the social contract has run. Basically their demand for better shift pay and separate negotiating

rights expresses a conviction that neither phases one and two nor their own union have been sufficiently concerned to protect their differentials. In this respect, of course, the Heathrow dispute is closely comparable with the action of other members of the same union in British Leyland, and with the electricians' strike at the Port Talbot steelworks. Thousands of other workers bear the same fully justified grudge, but are rightly waiting at least until July before giving it force.

The union declares that on this point it has every sympathy with the maintenance men. But its history and its structure combine to make it more subject than most unions to open conflicts of interest between more skilled and less skilled workers. The Heathrow shop stewards feel that their interests would be better served if they spoke for themselves. So do many others; but that way lies industrial chaos. It is a characteristic of British trade unions that they tend to gather in a heterogeneous mass of workers with nothing very much in common. Industry-based unions, where workers of different degrees of skill have a common stake in the success of their industry, are relatively rare.

Witness Heathrow itself, with its 15 unions. This structural problem makes it especially difficult to gain acquiescence in an incomes policy that would have a real chance of easing the tensions created in the past two years. Yet the Heathrow men show little sign of having understood that harsher economic disciplines will enforce restraint if there is no formal agreement, and that, as Mr Albert Booth observed last week, there is not much differential in the dole queue.

Nursery education

from Lady Britton and Mrs V. M. J. J.

The British Association for Early Childhood Education and the National Campaign for Nursery Education deeply regret the statement attributed to Sandra Edwards, chairman of the Preschool Playgroups Association (*The Times*, April 4), that expenditure on nursery education cannot be justified. Both the nursery expansion under the Urban Aid Programme and the expansion programme initiated by Mrs Thatcher in 1972 are supported by all parties and all parties had agreed to support the underprivileged child. It is most regrettable that it is important to note that many of the children who most lack the right preschool experiences live in families where for one reason or another the parents are unable to provide the necessary community provision for them.

Nursery teachers and nursery nurses have since the early days of its century given patient, generous and unselfish encouragement, assistance and support to these children and their families in order that their experiences and skills could be acquired before they start at infant school. This concern of teachers and nurses for children and parents as individuals, and their lack of self-advertisement are sometimes led to their being undervalued by the superficial lower; if the crucial importance of

their work had been properly appreciated we should long ago have had many more of them and might not now be so troubled by the failure of later educational provision to have the desired effect. Surely the last victims of cuts in spending should be these children. All under-fives should have preschool experience appropriate to their needs. Nursery schools and classes are an essential element in a balanced programme in which other forms of provision including playgroups play a part.

Yours faithfully,
N. BRITTON, Chairman,
British Association for Early Childhood Education,
Montgomery Hall,
Kennington Oval, SE11.
VICTORIA HURST, Chairman,
National Campaign for Nursery Education,
33 Hugh Street, SW1.

Trade unionists' fears

From Mr Fred Hardman
Sir, Mr Jasper Rowland (April 1) refers forebodingly to confrontation between Government (of any party) and the TUC. This is another confrontation building up, that between rank and file radicals and their left-wing leaders on the TUC.

Conservative. And the reason most often given? Labour Government and TUC cooperation has doubled unemployment, reduced living standards and meant savage cuts in education and social services, particularly in regard to the pensioners.

A close second is the fear of the power of the TUC in forcing the Labour Government to pass legislation that denies a man the chance to work.

Yours sincerely,
FRED HARDMAN, Chairman,
National Committee,
Coppice House,
Cosbrookdale,
Salop.
April 2.

Trade unionists' fears
From Mr Fred Hardman
Sir, Mr Jasper Rowland (April 1) refers forebodingly to confrontation between Government (of any party) and the TUC. This is another confrontation building up, that between rank and file radicals and their left-wing leaders on the TUC.

Future energy supplies

From the Chairman of the National Coal Board

Sir, President Carter's announcement last week of the new American policy on nuclear power has very wide implications for world energy developments as a whole. It emphasizes the need to keep all energy options open and to spread the risk through the whole range of possibilities.

In the debate on nuclear developments, the vital and continuing need for fossil fuels is often missed. Even if nuclear power were unaffected by the doubts which President Carter has now so forcibly expressed, there would still be a need to make the best use of the world's fossil fuel reserves. The fact is that nuclear power—renewable resources yet to be developed—will mainly produce base load electricity, whereas fossil fuels will be required for a very long time to meet the need for higher value uses such as transport and chemicals.

In the UK we are particularly fortunate in having at our disposal a full range of fossil fuels—coal, gas and oil—as well as an advanced nuclear technology and the research capability to tackle the problems presented by renewable sources. What is required is a clearly defined system of priorities. Substantial resources of finance and expertise are rightly being devoted to exploiting the gas and oil reserves of the North Sea. But these are generally acknowledged to have a limited life. Our greatest resources of fossil fuel by far are our massive coal reserves, and the research capability to tackle the problems presented by renewable sources. What is required is a clearly defined system of priorities.

The long-term plan for making the most of our coal reserves depends essentially on three features: exploration, investment and research. An accelerated programme of exploration has over the past three years identified no less than a further 1,500 million tons of readily exploitable coal. At present prices some £30 billion. This is, of course, a small part of the estimated 45 billion tons of technically recoverable coal known to exist in Britain.

The rate of investment has also been substantially increased and has been estimated in our plan to range between £350 and £400 million per annum at present prices from now till the end of the century (and certainly beyond). Research is focused on improving mining techniques, particularly by the progressive introduction of remote control methods, and on developing effective and economic methods of coal conversion.

President Carter's announcement underlines the importance of pressing on with this policy, not only in Britain, but also in all other countries with exploitable coal reserves. It is expected that when the President announces his new strategy for energy in the United States later this month, coal will figure very largely in the proposals.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK EZRA,
National Coal Board,
Robert House,
Grosvenor Place, SW1.

Commonwealth future

From Mr Ron Montague

Sir, The Commonwealth has survived upheavals before and I am sure it can outlast the present overcast clouds over Uganda. Your correspondent Roy Lewis, whose article "The Moment of Truth for the Commonwealth" (April 4) is before me, is surely taking too gloomy a view of the whole thing.

We are not at odds with Uganda over fundamental or long-term questions, as I see it. We are outraged over a series of incidents (and rightly so in my view). We must control our outrage and able to reach a decision of Commonwealth members on the question of President Amin attending the heads of government conference in June. Surely that is what the Commonwealth is all about—common decisions democratically arrived at. The way lies continued growth and stature for the Commonwealth as a force for good in the world.

Yours sincerely,
RON MONTAGUE,
10 Orchard Drive,
Rushmore,
Berk.

From Mr John Stebbing
Sir, The disparaging remarks by Mr Roy Lewis (article, April 4) are out of place. As a member of the Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth Foundation abundantly shows.

Surely, unusual situations call for unusual measures. Why should not her Majesty's Government ask the Commonwealth Secretary General if he will cancel the formal meeting of Commonwealth leaders, in London, this year? The Commonwealth leaders invited to the silver jubilee celebrations could then make use of the conference arrangements for informal discussions, bilateral, multi-lateral, regional. At any stage, the visiting leaders could ask the Commonwealth Secretariat to arrange some more general, but softer, more informal, meeting. Much ground could be covered.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STEBBING,
Fair Beches,
Burcot, near Abingdon,
Oxfordshire.

Letters to the Editor

From Professor Lord Kahn

Sir, In your leading article of April 7 you include among monetarists the Keynes of *The General Theory of Employment Interest and Money* (published in 1936). In his earlier works Keynes had dabbled with the Quantity Theory. In *The General Theory*, while he certainly emphasized the influence of the behaviour of the economy, he regarded movements of the price level as mainly determined by movements of the level of money wage rates.

Monetarists attribute the high rate of inflation of recent years to the high rate of growth of the quantity of money. The interpretation which follows from Keynes's theory is that the proximate cause is the rate of increase in money wages and, over the past three years, the large rises on world markets of the prices of oil and, to a lesser extent, of other primary products.

To the extent that the rate of growth of the quantity of money falls short of the rate of increase in wages (less the rate of growth of production), credit will become progressively tighter. The results will be progressively deeper economic depression, growing unemployment and falling profits (and growing losses and an increasing number of bankruptcies). These consequences are accentuated if the Government raises taxes and cuts expenditure.

Many economists, other than monetarists, believe that the behaviour of money wages can be radically improved by a direct moderating influence on the process of wage bargaining; and that in this way catastrophe can be averted.

Such a moderating influence can be left to the trade union leaders. It is likely to be more effective in the form of an incomes policy in which the Government play a role, partly because the Government can indicate that success will result in their raising measures designed to stimulate the economy and reduce unemployment.

In conclusion, I offer to you the advice which Keynes offered to the editor of the *Financial News*, in a letter, published on January 5, 1940.

"If you are not too old, as to which I have no information, I strongly recommend an operation. Be moderate methods an inflated Quantity Theory can always be removed with much less danger than surgery."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
K.A.H.N.,
King's College,
Cambridge.

From Mr E. R. Hardcastle
Sir, In your leading article today (April 7) you deal with "money supply" and the price level, and

never even been a Hugh Gaitskell to try—and fail—to get it removed. Party constitutions, it may be said, are mere theology. So let us say: "Gaitskell, recommended—Judge people's beliefs not by what they say but what they do. Here again the reward is clear. Every Labour parliament extends state ownership and control, and these extensions are supported by all, moderate, radical, and Marxist, both And if any "right-wing extremist" dares to suggest some decentralization, then the Labour Party is again unanimous that the march to the state where Clause IV is fully law must be irreversible. If our Liberals do what the Prime Minister hopes, and keep the Labour Government there till it can get returned to office on a rising tide of oil royalties, then the socialist march will certainly be resumed. This is not how it is with Chancellor Schmidt and the German Social-Democrats.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY FLEW,
26 Alexandra Road, Reading.

Fragile eggshells

From Mr G. F. Brooks

Sir, I am glad that the Poultry Research Centre has, after 10 years' investigation, been able to solve the worrying problem of modern hens' eggs splitting during boiling. People who have been worried lest food quality should be changed by technology will be relieved to know that the hen with the housewife's simple advice, known to all husbands who have learnt to boil an egg, that a small pin prick made in the egg rounded end will let expanding air escape from the split, and save the shell from splitting.

Yours faithfully,
G. F. BROOKES,
10 High Beech,
South Crofton,
Surrey.

unusual measures. Why should not her Majesty's Government ask the Commonwealth Secretary General if he will cancel the formal meeting of Commonwealth leaders, in London, this year? The Commonwealth leaders invited to the silver jubilee celebrations could then make use of the conference arrangements for informal discussions, bilateral, multi-lateral, regional. At any stage, the visiting leaders could ask the Commonwealth Secretariat to arrange some more general, but softer, more informal, meeting. Much ground could be covered.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STEBBING,
Fair Beches,
Burcot, near Abingdon,
Oxfordshire.

From Mr C. L. G. Eaton
Sir, Hands are wrung over the prospect of President Amin turning up here. This problem would never have arisen had we not, in self-righteous zeal, demolished the traditional structure of government in Uganda by first undermining the authority of the late Kabaka and then by destroying him. It seems only just that we should now suffer some inconvenience as a direct consequence of the mischief we did. Unfortunately the people of Uganda, victims of our destructiveness, suffer from a more serious inconvenience.

Yours faithfully,
C. L. G. EATON,
Ravenshoe Club,
Pall Mall, SW1.
April 5.

Ten days later Hobhouse's diary, from which these extracts were first published by Leslie Marchand in his *Byron* biography in 1957, mentions twice "the coffin and the urn" at the funeral; so it would appear that the contents of the "vases" had all been mingled by this time in the single receptacle with a brass plate which Mr Bett-ridge saw.

Far more important is the evidence which Miss Wood's information seems to have added to the subject of Byron's leanness and the deformity of one or both of his feet. I look forward to the reaction of experts in this classical controversy.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL VVYAN,
Craig House,
Near Crook, Kendal,
Westmorland.
April 6.

Money supply and inflation

From Professor Lord Kahn

Sir, In your leading article of April 7 you include among monetarists the Keynes of *The General Theory of Employment Interest and Money* (published in 1936). In his earlier works Keynes had dabbled with the Quantity Theory. In *The General Theory*, while he certainly emphasized the influence of the behaviour of the economy, he regarded movements of the price level as mainly determined by movements of the level of money wage rates.

Monetarists attribute the high rate of inflation of recent years to the high rate of growth of the quantity of money. The interpretation which follows from Keynes's theory is that the proximate cause is the rate of increase in money wages and, over the past three years, the large rises on world markets of the prices of oil and, to a lesser extent, of other primary products.

To the extent that the rate of growth of the quantity of money falls short of the rate of increase in wages (less the rate of growth of production), credit will become progressively tighter. The results will be progressively deeper economic depression, growing unemployment and falling profits (and growing losses and an increasing number of bankruptcies). These consequences are accentuated if the Government raises taxes and cuts expenditure.

Many economists, other than monetarists, believe that the behaviour of money wages can be radically improved by a direct moderating influence on the process of wage bargaining; and that in this way catastrophe can be averted.

Such a moderating influence can be left to the trade union leaders. It is likely to be more effective in the form of an incomes policy in which the Government play a role, partly because the Government can indicate that success will result in their raising measures designed to stimulate the economy and reduce unemployment.

In conclusion, I offer to you the advice which Keynes offered to the editor of the *Financial News*, in a letter, published on January 5, 1940.

"If you are not too old, as to which I have no information, I strongly recommend an operation. Be moderate methods an inflated Quantity Theory can always be removed with much less danger than surgery."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
K.A.H.N.,
King's College,
Cambridge.

From Mr E. R. Hardcastle
Sir, In your leading article today (April 7) you deal with "money supply" and the price level, and

never even been a Hugh Gaitskell to try—and fail—to get it removed. Party constitutions, it may be said, are mere theology. So let us say: "Gaitskell, recommended—Judge people's beliefs not by what they say but what they do. Here again the reward is clear. Every Labour parliament extends state ownership and control, and these extensions are supported by all, moderate, radical, and Marxist, both And if any "right-wing extremist" dares to suggest some decentralization, then the Labour Party is again unanimous that the march to the state where Clause IV is fully law must be irreversible. If our Liberals do what the Prime Minister hopes, and keep the Labour Government there till it can get returned to office on a rising tide of oil royalties, then the socialist march will certainly be resumed. This is not how it is with Chancellor Schmidt and the German Social-Democrats.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY FLEW,
26 Alexandra Road, Reading.

German socialist aims

From Professor Antony Flew

Sir, Lord Gladwyn (April 2) challenges Professor H. D. Jones to say whether "the German Free Democrats, who are now in a coalition with Socialists, should no longer receive any 'Liberal' support". But it is Lord Gladwyn, not Professor Jones, who is misleading. Both British and German politics are far from "tower" and through the disturbing lenses of an ambiguous vocabulary.

Certainly our Labour Party and the German Social-Democrats are both members of the Socialist International. But the German Social-Democrats have since the late fifties most categorically rejected "the public ownership of all the means of production, distribution and exchange" in favour of competitive private ownership and "the social market economy". By contrast Labour will maintain the socialist Clause IV in its constitution and prints it on every party card. The constitution of the TUC has, I am told, a similar clause; and there has

channel of communication and information: it would ensure that local action was taken in the light of local needs; it would act as an advocate for those needs and foster local industrial development through its "hot lines" to central and local government departments; it would be a central point through which the government, premises, industrial landlords and tenants could be brought together... In short, it would get things done—it would be entrepreneurial and not bureaucratic.

I think we should also be clear that government assistance for the inner city should not be used to make massive financial injections into ailing industries; indeed I do not believe that industry would welcome this. But the authorities responsible for inner cities must have the resources necessary to overcome the difficulties of a 19th century industrial infrastructure, and be ready to apply those resources in an innovative way both to industries that can thrive and to those that are consistent with the National Industrial Strategy. Otherwise our cities face a deepening spiral of decay, deprivation and mounting social tension, at an incalculable cost to the country as a whole.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY FLEW,
26 Alexandra Road, Reading.

From Miss Enid Lakeman
Sir, How on earth can Ronald Butt (column, April 7) know that the electors of Stretford and Urmston were so reactionary?

Those who voted for her candidate were 43.4 per cent of all who voted, or one quarter of the entire electorate. How many of them were themselves reactionaries, attracted by a leader reputedly of their own complexion? How many more or fewer might have voted Conservative if Mr Heath had still been the Conservative candidate? How many would have voted Conservative in any case, no matter who the leader or who the candidate?

One simply cannot draw valid conclusions about such things from our uninformative Xs.

Yours faithfully,
ENID LAKEMAN, Director,
Electoral Reform Society,
6 Church Street,
Southwark, SE1.

Money supply and inflation

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Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY FLEW,
26 Alexandra Road, Reading.

Rescuing inner cities

From Mrs Yvonne Steve

Sir, Following the Secretary of State for the Environment's statement on the inner cities, all local authorities with responsibility for these areas will be considering how they can best take advantage of what the government has promised. Through your columns, I urge that prime emphasis be placed on economic regeneration and employment in the inner city, and that new mechanisms be developed to achieve this.

One of the difficulties in the past has been the neat, clinical approach to town planning adopted by local authorities. This approach has, moreover, been applied to too narrow a field: housing and the environment have, for instance, traditionally been the concern of the authorities, but often to the detriment of an area's industrial and commercial strength. I believe that one very promising way in which local authorities can foster this strength is by setting up, in conjunction with local employers and trade unionists, industrial "task forces". I envisage that these would establish close relations with local firms, extending their problems with them, and jointly work towards their solutions—linking as necessary with the local authorities themselves, the range of advisory bodies and sources of finance.

A "task force" would be a

channel of communication and information: it would ensure that local action was taken in the light of local needs; it would act as an advocate for those needs and foster local industrial development through its "hot lines" to central and local government departments; it would be a central point through which the government, premises, industrial landlords and tenants could be brought together... In short, it would get things done—it would be entrepreneurial and not bureaucratic.

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Yours faithfully,
ENID LAKEMAN, Director,
Electoral Reform Society,
6 Church Street,
Southwark, SE1.

From the Rev Brian Taylor
Sir, It is not only the Post Office that needs to be watched. There is a time when the DHSS stamp weeks began on Mondays. The new style of card, has weeks that begin on Sundays. Inquiry from the Department brought a reply that the Secretary of State was competent to cause weeks to begin on any day that seemed suitable. So at the time of the change we all paid the full rate for a six-day week.

Now we learn that the new, higher charges for stamps will begin on April 6. That is a Wednesday. Will it follow a three-day week?

Arabs in line to acquire £6m Chelsea Hotel

By Ray McLaughlin

Arab interests may have been behind the £5m purchase of the Chelsea Hotel in Sloane Square from Adda International.

The purchaser is ostensibly Rugeate, a British registered company which is acting for Swiss clients. But Mr Pacer James and Mr Michael Chepelow, the Rugeate directors, have been involved in Arab deals in the past.

Mr James was behind the £5m PazeGuide purchase of the Dorchester, and acted as a legal adviser to King Khalid of Saudi Arabia on the £3m acquisition of Mr Ravi Tikoo's North London home earlier this month.

However, Mr Brendan Burns, an associate of both Mr James and Mr Chepelow, denied yesterday that there had been any connection between PazeGuide and Rugeate. As to the identities of the firm's purchaser, he said: "You're not going to find out. It's just not available to anyone."

The sale, however, helped Adda International shares. They climbed 2p yesterday to 18½p on the news that the

Wentworth should a near £5.5m drop in United Kingdom borrowings to about £3m.

"We're replacing high-cost money," Mr Godfrey Erbmann, Adda finance director, commented. This was costing 4 per cent over the Finance Houses Association base rate.

Adda was forced to buy out the leasehold interest in the Chelsea when the developer "financed it as best we could".

The Chelsea's 217 rooms are effectively priced at £27,650 each which, allowing for the lower ballroom and conference space, compares attractively with the Dorchester rate of £25,000.

Price and reflects the bumper summer and autumn expected by the London hotel trade this season.

The Chelsea has attracted a lot of interest in the past, but in 1975, which has been a negotiating year, the Chelsea has been in the market for 18 months, "is buying very good assets which fit well into the market place". Mr Erbmann concluded.

For its own part, Adda looked at the opportunity, cost, interest charges and the profit for 1975, and concluded that the Chelsea was a very good sale.

Cement makers seeking increase

Another round of cement price rises is expected shortly. The Cement Makers' Federation is expected to agree at its meeting to seek a rise of 10 to 15 per cent to cover increasing costs, chiefly fuel.

If passed by the Price Commission the new prices will come into force in May. The rise will be the second in this year.

United Kingdom deliveries fell 8 per cent last year and Mr John M'Ine, managing director of Associated Portland Cement, said yesterday that the construction downturn would cause a similar fall this year.

Financial Editor, page 17

oved		The Times index : 168.14 + 1.5.	
		The FT index : 407.9 + 4.5.	
THE POUND			
Day Printing	11p to 16p	Bank	Bank
Inv & Fin	7p to 75p	buys	sells
and Select	10p to 43p		
onlessoms Sims	71p to 121p	Australia S	1.61 1.56
ell	7p to 488p	Austria Sch	31.00 29.00
ith WE 'A'	7p to 452p	Belgium Fr	65.50 62.50
ing Sarc	7p to 196p	Canada S	1.85 1.80
ing Furniture	7p to 80p	Denmark Kr	10.65 10.25
Central	6p to 136p	Finland Mk	7.14 6.89
ramur	9p to 155p	France Fr	8.76 8.44
oper	13p to 100p	Germany Dm	4.05 4.05
		Greece Dr	64.75 61.75
		Hong Kong S	8.20 7.75
		Italy Lr	1535.00 1480.00
		Japan Yn	493.00 469.00
		Netherlands Gld	4.44 4.23
		Norway Kr	9.43 9.07
		Portugal Esc	67.50 65.50
		S African Rd	2.87 2.88
		Spain Pes	121.50 113.50
		Sweden Kr	7.80 7.45
		Switzerland Fr	4.52 4.50
		US	1.76 1.71
		Yugoslavia Dnr	34.25 32.00
<p> e was G.L.G. d closed \$1 up at \$149. R-5 was 1.16100 on Tuesday, hile SDR-5 was 0.675393. Commodities: Reuter's index was 111.0 (previous) 137.2. </p>			
Reports pages 18 and 19			
<p> Annual Statements : American Trust Life Assurance Broders British Provident </p>			
<p> Preliminary Announcements : 15. Taylor Palister 16. Redemption Notices : 17. City of Oslo </p>			

REFUGE


ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

RESULTS FOR 1976

In the Life Assurance Branches the surplus for the year allocated to policyholders was £15,382,000 (1975 £13,213,000).

In the Fire and Accident Branch there was a loss on underwriting of £120,000 (1975 £18,000 profit), and investment income amounted to £384,000 (1975 £309,000).

At 31st December 1976 the total assets in the Balance Sheets amounted to £352 millions (1975 £334 millions).



REFUGE

ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Chief Office (& Registered Office), Oxford Street, Manchester, M60 7HA.
Registered Number 1384C-England.

Spectre of 3p beer levy still haunts brewers

By Ronald Emler

There is increasing concern within the drinks sector that the Government will give in to liberal pressure and withdraw the 51p a gallon extra taxation imposed on petrol in the Budget in favour of increased levies on alcohol. The Chancellor has given warning that such a move could mean an extra 3p on a pint of beer.

Already some brewers are pointing out that British beer is the most highly taxed in Europe, while oil and fuel oils bear the lowest tax in the EEC. It is also felt that the Liberals might reap an unwanted harvest in the next election because there are as many beer drinkers as drivers in rural areas who will resent the taxation switch.

The Liberals object to the highest petrol levy, as it is a burden on rural areas where cars have become a necessity because of the withdrawal of public transport services.

Brewers are already resigned to the prospect of a minimum increase in sales volume this year, even if there is a third successive heatwave summer. To recoup the £310m the Chancellor originally planned to take from petrol and fuel oil in a full year, Mr. Healey would need to put 3p on a pint, assuming the whole import were transferred to beer.

However that would take no account of a potential sales decline due to the increase in duty and value-added tax which could mean the Chancellor might have to put on an additional 3p or even 4p a pint to yield the same revenue.

To spread the burden more widely across the drinks sector would also be unwelcome. The Wine and Spirit Association has already presented a petition to the Treasury demonstrating that leaving duties untouched in the present market maximizes the return to the Chancellor.

Britain in traffic research project

Britain, Belgium, France and Germany are among countries which have agreed to cooperate in an international research project designed to produce a standard system of electronic traffic aids for major roads. The European Community itself is also expected to participate in the project, mounted under the auspices of the Committee on European Cooperation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research (CEST). Its aim is to develop techniques for the control and management of traffic.

'Significant' Japanese imports of UK motor components forecast

By Clifford Webb

A team of visiting Japanese motor industry executives has decided that Britain's labour relations problems are not nearly as bad as they are painted overseas. As a result they predict that British component and accessory exports to Japan will "reach significant levels in the long term".

A joint statement issued yesterday by the Japanese Automotive Manufacturers' Association and the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders described it as "a turning point in Anglo-Japanese relations in this field". As a first move some of the major Japanese car makers are considering appointing European purchasing agents.

The 13 senior executives, all concerned with their companies' purchasing policies, represent leading companies,

including Toyota, Nissan (Datsun), Honda, Isuzu, Fuji, Mitsubishi and Toyo-Kogyo. They arrived on March 20 for a three-week tour organized jointly by the SMMT and the British Overseas Trade Board.

From the outset the Japanese were at pains to point out that their visit was a "look-and-see operation" only and unlikely to lead to firm orders—a statement which seemed to substantiate the widely held view that the visit was little more than window dressing to relieve the growing pressure for government restrictions on Japanese car imports.

Lt's night a British official who has been involved in the visit said: "They came with the preconceived view that British Leyland's much-publicized labour problems were typical of the general position here. This was obvious from the time they spent questioning managers

and shop stewards about the incidence of strikes. They were frankly surprised to discover that this is just not true. As a result there are much more confident about the prospects for component sales in Japan."

The official statement issued yesterday at the end of the visit said: "It is clear as a result of these discussions that certain anxieties about labour relations in the component and accessory industry have been dispelled".

It reported that 10 samples and 20 firm price quotations had been requested from the 17 companies visited.

A delegation from the SMMT will return the visit next month. It will coincide with an exhibition of components and accessories being staged at the British Export Marketing Centre in Tokyo and may be followed up by British stands at the Tokyo motor show in October.

Three-month record for hallmarking

By Patricia Tisdall

Gold and silver articles submitted for hallmarking broke new records during the first three months of 1977, according to figures issued yesterday by the Joint Committee of the Assay Offices of Great Britain.

Compared with the same quarter of last year, the weight of silver sent for testing jumped 57 per cent to a total of 45,732 kilograms. The number of articles rose by 294 per cent to over 2.2 million wares, reflecting an increase in bowls, dishes and tankards being specially produced for the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

To commemorate the Jubilee, silver wares weighing more than 15 grams are being struck with a special mark of the Queen's head in profile as well as the sponsor's mark, standard mark, office mark and date letter.

The weight of all the gold wares assayed in the offices in London, Birmingham, Sheffield and Edinburgh climbed by 324 per cent compared with the 1976 period, to a total of 14,282 kilograms while gold wares rose 40 per cent to a total of over 3.6 million articles.

A spokesman for the committee said that the totals for gold and silver hallmarking were an all-time record. The normally slack January, February and March periods have been exceptionally active with only a pause in January.

But platinum has had a disappointing quarter with the weight of metal tested declining by 23.5 per cent to 19,308 grams on 25 per cent fewer articles sent in for testing.

Shell starts drilling off western Ireland

By Peter Hill

Shell has begun a new offshore drilling programme off the west coast of Ireland. The company has spudded in its first well, which is farther west than any so far drilled in European waters.

Through its Irish affiliate, Irish Shell Petroleum Development Company, Teanagar, an operator for a partnership with AGP, Ireland, the first well has been drilled in 1,550ft of water, 110 miles off the coast on block 35/13, one of the exploration blocks released last year.

The company is using the drilling rig, Sedco 707, one of a new generation of heavy duty semi-submersible rigs which

were built last year and are designed for use in the most severe environmental conditions. The rig is being operated by Marine Drilling SA and has already drilled one well (in British waters) for the Royal/Dutch Shell group.

Technical staff involved in supervising the operation have been based at Limerick, and the supply base for the drilling programme is being carried out from Foyens, on the river Shannon estuary, using two specially designed supply boats.

The well, which was spudded in last week, is also the first to be drilled in such deep water off Ireland. Until now most oil exploration activity off the Irish coast has been concentrated on the south-east side.

More textile jobs lost during February

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Further reductions in the cotton and allied textile industry's labour force were revealed yesterday. Total employment in the industry in February was 500 less compared with a year earlier, with reductions in the weaving and waste spinning sectors more than offsetting higher employment in the cotton system spinning and finishing sectors.

According to the latest figures published by the Textile Statistics Bureau, the daily rate of single yarn production in February was 1 per cent more than in January and 10 per cent higher than in the corresponding month last year.

The bureau noted that although production was below the levels reached in May, October and November 1976, the volume of new orders booked by spinners was appreciably greater.

The daily rate of woven cloth production rose 13 per cent compared with January, but output was 21 per cent below the year earlier level.

Weyers' stocks of cloth fell again during the month and reached their lowest point for almost two years.

Italian wages: A study of the wage structure in the Italian textile industry finds that pay rates remain uncompetitively high despite recent curbs.

The study says the index of labour costs per unit of production at the end of this year will

In brief

Receiver put in at Tristar Travel

A joint industry rescue attempt has failed to save Tristar Travel whose licence to sell inclusive air holidays was not renewed by the Civil Aviation Authority earlier this month. The Association of British Travel Agents said yesterday it had been advised by the company that it had ceased trading and a receiver was being appointed.

The bond lodged with the association, estimated at just over £100,000, has been called in to refund an estimated 13,000 passengers who booked with Tristar. The association said all passengers would be protected from loss.

Anti-bankruptcy loans

Japan's Government has developed an emergency financing system to prevent smaller companies from going bankrupt in reaction to failure by their parent groups, the Trade and Industry Ministry said yesterday. The system, applicable for three months from April 18, allows government financial institutions to supply emergency loans up to 20 million yen (about £43,000).

IFO output forecast

West German manufacturing industry expects its turnover to rise by 9 per cent this year and 7 per cent in 1978 after an 11 per cent rise last year, the IFO economic research institute of Munich said yesterday. Domestic turnover growth in 1977 is expected to slow to 8 per cent.

Business appointments

Mr Alexander Robertson has been appointed a director of Standard Chartered Bank. Mr Peter McNeill becomes a director of Standard Chartered Merchant Bank. Mr G. Norman has been made managing director of Manders (Holdings) in succession to Mr J. D. F. Tavenland, who continues as chairman. Mr D. A. Langford has been made company secretary of English China Clays; Mr T. D. B. Giles becomes group financial controller. Mr Aubrey Jones, formerly chairman of the Prices and Incomes Board, has become a director of Black & Decker. Mr R. G. Sumbrook is appointed a director of Willis, Faber & Dumas. Mr Peter Bennett and Mr Trevor Holdsworth become non-executive directors of Thorn Electrical Industries. Mr Bennett is chairman of W. H. Smith & Son (Holdings) and Mr Holdsworth is deputy chairman of Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds. Mr F. Mayer has joined the board and becomes managing director of Rothschild Investment Trust. Mr L. S. Wigdor also becomes a director. Mr A. Pemberton has been appointed chairman of National Westminster Unit Trust Managers on the retirement of Sir John Brindley. Mr A. E. Gibb, chief executive and a deputy chairman of the National Westminster Bank Group, and Mr J. P. Morton, investment manager, trustee and incomes tax department, become directors, succeeding Mr J. A. Blinn and Mr G. P. L. Pickering, who have retired. Mr J. H. Webb, deputy general manager and principal secretary, Commercial Union Assurance, succeeds Mr R. E. Allen as a director. Mr R. C. Chapman has joined the board of Castlefields, secretary of the British Gas Corporation, will retire on June 30 and will be succeeded by Mr Gordon May, who becomes secretary-designate on May 1. Mr E. A. Haynes is deputy chairman of the north-east region from May 1. Mr Basil Bin Ismail has been appointed deputy chairman of Kallit (Malaysia) Berhad and Dame C. J. Lowe joins the board. Mr T. B. L. Coghlan has resigned. Following the acquisition by EMI, Mr R. L. Watt becomes a director of Development Securities and succeeds Colonel J. A. T. Barstow as chairman. Mr R. S. Upshall and Mr P. I. Bayman become directors of EMI. Mr R. Robb Alpin, Sir Edwin McAlpine, Mr Malcolm McAlpine, Mr Michael Richards and Mr Derek Rudden have resigned from the board. Mr W. R. Merton has been appointed chairman of The Sterling Trust, on retirement of Mr Michael Berry. Mr Ronald Nelson becomes chairman of Robson Lowe, after the retirement of Sir Peter Forsley. Mr Robson Lowe has rejoined the board and Mr Adriano Lanini has also been made a director. Mr Graham Carey and Mr David Crocker have been elected to the board of Robson Lowe International. Mr Charles Leonard becomes a director of Woods of Perth (Printers). Mr M. A. Butt has been appointed chairman of Blend Payne (UK).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The hard facts of a wages policy

From Lord Brown

Sir, There are a number of conceptual points which have to be borne in mind when consideration is being given to a national wage policy.

(1) There are about six different levels of differential as follows:

(a) Those between individual employees;
(b) Between groups of employees working at the same level in the hierarchy;
(c) Between different levels of the hierarchy;
(d) Between different hierarchies in the same industry;
(e) Between different "industries", eg. engineering, Civil Service, mining, teaching, etc.;
(f) Between citizens in different categories, eg. those employed, unemployed, pensioners, disabled, etc. Unless clarity exists as to which differentials are being dealt with when arrangements are made, chaos can result. For example in 1975 the big strikes mostly concerned level (e) above.

Recent strikes in Leyland and British Airways concern level (b). Clearly the negotiations for phase three will at least have to deal with (e) and (b). The "kitty" principle could be applied to both.

(2) Constant reference is made to the desire of some groups of employees to return to "free collective bargaining". It must be quite clear that the word "collective" is in direct contradiction to what is being sought. What Leyland tool-makers and BA maintenance men want is the right to negotiate separately—not collectively.

There has always been the greatest reluctance on the part of most trade unions to join with other unions and negotiate collectively with management. The current assumption that after phase three all will be well is an evasion of reality. National wage policies are with us for keeps if we are to avoid the sort of inflation which nearly brought the country to its knees in 1975.

Yours truly,
WILLIAM BROWN,
23 Prince Albert Road, NW1,
April 4.

Price freeze fear of every company

From Mr T. Fortescue

Sir, I must apologise for trespassing on your columns again so soon after my last letter ("The Budget: freezing prices", April 2), but Mr Healey's comments on his newly-published Price Commission Bill, as reported on your front page (April 5) are so extraordinary that they must be brought to your attention.

The Bill includes as expected the power, which the Chancellor in his Budget speech denied by implication, for the Price Commission to freeze without explanation a notified price increase for up to four months from the date of notification, while it undertakes an investigation of the company concerned. In the light of the investigation the increase can be allowed in full, allowed in part or disallowed. If it is allowed in full or in part the company will have no redress in compensation for its loss for a period of legitimate revenue.

In his comments Mr Healey is reported to have said: "The efficient company will have nothing to fear." It seems impossible to convey to him that under his proposals all

sustainable change in a pattern of differential earnings by alteration to the pay level of one group unless that change is agreed, not only by those who benefit by the change, but also by those who do not. Otherwise the change made to the earnings of one group immediately leads to similar claims by all other groups. If these are granted then no change has been made to the pattern of differentials.

This means that if the "kitty" principle (as for example described in a recent PEP publication) is used, say for a single company, then all employed in that company must, through their representatives, agree how the "kitty" is to be distributed to all ranks and employee groups. This, in turn, involves the establishment of unanimous voting councils or at least the agreement of all representatives to abide by the majority vote, the method used by the TUC to get agreement on phases one and two.

These three points are not fancy new ideas but simply a recognition of facts. Unless they are recognized and brought into the open as a basis of phase three then the arrangements will fail to function satisfactorily.

One last point which is not factual but nevertheless of great importance concerns the future. Will there ever be a time when it is possible to contemplate a return to power bargaining by individual groups or trade unions without the prospect of an economic disaster?

The current assumption that after phase three all will be well is an evasion of reality. National wage policies are with us for keeps if we are to avoid the sort of inflation which nearly brought the country to its knees in 1975.

Yours truly,
WILLIAM BROWN,
23 Prince Albert Road, NW1,
April 4.

The law of competition in business

From Mr B. V. Mether

Sir, Your correspondent Mr Hugh Stephenson (March 28) plainly misrepresents the level of business acumen prevalent in the Tory party in the late sixties, and his memories are incorrect.

The law of competition has almost invariably meant that in an evolving business small independents are bought out. The cases of Burmah's retail chain, and of Duckham's (the first multigrade) Oil are two in point. The policy in question was not that of a return to anything, but an encouragement of local initiative in ideas and invention, leading to personal financial success, whether or not the enterprise in question were to be a permanent one.

This was a response to the hierarchical structure of industrial assessments and of government departments. In the one case profits were sure, mere size, and no research expenditure kept minimum. This has been a recurrent pattern even in giant international companies. In the other, evidence of a very detailed kind was required. Mr Cockerill will no doubt be pleased to inform the curious.

Finally, the evidence is the number of inventions, from Xerox to carbon fibres to sewing-wing jet, to name only three, which were unsuccessful, offered to (one) small British company to my personal knowledge.

The risks should be obvious to all. Yours sincerely,
B. V. METHER,
17 Meole Walk,
Meole Hall,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

Operation of credit unions

From Mr A. C. A. Hopkins

Sir, The column "In Brief" on April 6 included the statement that the Government plans "to allow the introduction of credit unions in Britain" in legislative proposals for the licensing and supervision of deposit-taking institutions. This is unfortunately rather misleading.

What the Government is proposing is to improve the legal arrangements under which credit unions operate, by revising the provisions of the Industrial & Provident Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 1969, and applying it to Great Britain.

Credit unions were introduced to Britain in the early 1960s when Credit Union (Wimbledon) Limited was incorporated. There are numerous other registered CUs now, registered under either the Companies Acts or as Friendly Societies.

The new legislation proposed will reduce the cost of establishing and operating credit unions and will make the movement spread more easily as a result.

Yours faithfully,
A. C. A. HOPKINS,
TIM FORTESCUE,
Secretary General, Food and Drink Industries Council,
1-2 Castle Lane,
London SW1E 6DN,
April 5.

Schroders

Mr. Michael Verey, Chairman of Schroders Limited, reports on 1976

The Group had another successful year. The disclosed consolidated profit (after taxation and transfers to inner reserves), together with other surpluses credited to disclosed consolidated reserves, amounted to £6,555,000 compared with £6,230,000 in 1975. The disclosed profit of the banking and insurance subsidiaries was 24 per cent. higher than in 1975.

A maximum permitted final dividend is recommended, making a total for the year of 10.2425p per share compared with 9.3114p per share for 1975.

The earnings of J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited exceeded last year's record level. The banking division's profits were higher than ever before. The investment division continued to be profitable. The company finance division made its highest contribution yet to the bank's results.

The Schroder Life Group's new business results overall were encouraging and Schroder Finance, now Schroder Leasing, had another record year. Schroder Computer Services achieved a further improvement in external income.

Earnings from the Group's operations in the United States improved significantly owing to increased revenues from virtually all service activities and from higher security profits. The volume of lending business expanded while record revenues were achieved in the portfolio management and investment banking areas.

In Switzerland, J. Henry Schroder Bank A.G. again achieved excellent results.

In Brussels, we and The Mitsubishi Trust and Banking Corporation each took a fifty per cent. interest in MTBC & Schroder Bank which opened in September, 1976.

In Australia, the Schroder, Darling Group was helped by declining short term interest rates to achieve a record pre-tax profit in the year to 30th June, 1976.

In Brazil, the Schroder-Monteiro Aranha companies continued to expand and we have remained active elsewhere in Latin America.

In the Far East, Schroders & Chartered enhanced its position in Hong Kong. Our Tokyo representative office continued to expand its activities. Group earnings from our Japanese business reached record levels. In October, 1976, we acquired an interest of just under twenty-five per cent. in Singapore International Merchant Bankers Limited.

In the Middle East, the Group expanded its activities satisfactorily and we acquired a shareholding in a new investment bank in Saudi Arabia, The Saudi Investment Banking Corporation.

Our associated company, Property Holdings International Limited, has been faced with difficulties. The sectors of the United States real estate market in which its projects principally lie did not show the improvement which had been looked for at the beginning of 1976.

After 43 years with the Group I am retiring at the Annual General Meeting on 4th May, 1977 when the Earl of Airlie will succeed me. I record my grateful thanks to all those who have worked or who now work for the Group.

schroders

Group Companies, Associates and Representative Offices in:

Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bermuda, Brazil, Canada, The Cayman Islands, Colombia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America.

If you would like a copy of the Schroders Limited Report and Accounts, please write to The Secretary, Schroders Limited, 120 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DS.

American Trust Company Limited

Summary of the results for the year ended 31st January 1977

CONSOLIDATED GROUP FIGURES

	1977	1976
Total assets	\$61.2m	\$61.6m
Asset value per share	46.9p	48.3p
Revenue available for ordinary shareholders	\$886,575	\$786,818
Earnings per ordinary share	1.150p	1.246p
Earnings per ordinary share assuming full conversion of B ordinary shares	1.077p	0.965p
Dividends per ordinary share	1.100p	1.350p
Capitalisation issue (B ordinary shares)	3.56496%	4.27714%

DIVIDENDS

Of 19,185,923 B shares in issue at 17th May 1976, 13,991,143 have been converted into ordinary shares ranking for dividend. The directors recommend that a final dividend of 0.68p per share be paid on the ordinary shares, making a total of 1.10p per share. This compares with 1.35p per share last year, and with a minimum of 1.00p forecast in this year's interim report. In recommending this dividend rate the directors have been concerned to establish a realistic level from which dividends can grow in future in line with increases in income from investments, and have taken into account the effect of conversion of the remaining B shares.

POLICY AND PROSPECTS

In the United Kingdom perhaps the main event affecting the economy was the steep fall in sterling during the year. Although the negotiation of the IMF package led to some return of confidence in financial markets, prospects continue to be affected by the danger of renewed inflation. The directors are adopting a cautious policy with regard to United Kingdom equity investment. They consider that the potential for long-term gains in United States equities remains superior to that in other markets, and will continue to invest a substantial proportion of the portfolio there.

PORTFOLIO DISTRIBUTION (excluding subsidiary companies)

	1977	1976
United Kingdom	33.7	42.3
U.S.A.	30.9	31.9
Japan	2.9	3.7
Europe	2.7	5.8
Canada	1.9	2.5
Far East	1.2	2.4
South America	0.9	0.9
Fixed interest	5.9	3.6
Cash and short term deposits*	19.9	4.9
	100.0	100.0

*Unusually large cash balances were held at 31.1.1977 in anticipation of impending loan repayments.

Copies of the report and accounts may be obtained from the managers and secretaries, Edinburgh Fund Managers Ltd., at 4 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7JB where the annual general meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th May 1977 at 12.15 p.m.

The law of competition in business

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Shifting trends among merchant banks



Mr. Anthony Binny, chairman of Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers.

Schroder's annual report confirms that much of the growth in the past year has been the result of currency changes and that the underlying position is still fairly sluggish. Thus, its loans were up by 23 per cent to £435m, its deposits by 20 per cent to £800m, and its gross assets by 183 per cent to £1,005m. But the group notes that sterling lending—thanks largely to the ending of sterling's role as a third country trade—was little changed, while Eurocurrency book in volume terms, was only slightly in excess of the previous year.

Schroder may have done less well in sterling than some other accepting houses, which as a group achieved 12 per cent growth last year, but the increase in its gross assets was close to the average. Since overseas deposits of the accepting houses are now close to 60 per cent of the total its performance is probably a fair indicator for the sector.

Certainly its figures show a little more buoyancy than those of Kleinwort Benson—although Kleinwort managed a 10 per cent profit growth while Schroder slipped back from £2.6m to £2.2m because of losses by its overseas associate. But both are put into the shade by Morgan Grenfell, which for the past couple of years has pursued a course all its own. Morgan's deposits were up 43 per cent, and its overall balance sheet total by 30 per cent to £699m. In loan terms it is less clearly outperformed the market with growth of 27 per cent, however, and unlike Schroder and Kleinwort it did not keep its published capital rising in line with its deposits.

The balance sheet is by no means under pressure, but this does explain why Morgan has had to open up its reserves out into the open to increase its published reserves and is adding to the paid up capital of the holding company.

Metal fabricators Judging the building cycle

Sharp increases in the profits of two of the smaller metal fabricating groups, BICC and IMI, have done little to change the stock market's coolness towards the sector. It is easy to see why. Production of copper and copper alloys in the United Kingdom has been in decline throughout 1976, and BICC, although increasing profits, failed to reach its previous record, while volume in its cables division actually declined.

Mr. Binny says that the cement industry is looking for a 10-15 per cent increase in cement prices. A further rise in industrial activity would continue to have a corresponding effect on profits, but an investment in IMI would not on this sort of reasoning be markedly different in character, from one in, say, GKN or ICI. BICC, meanwhile, needs a major improvement in its profits.

Unfortunately the underlying growth factor in the presence of 35 per cent of Britain's homes with wiring that needs replacing is a figure of only 1.5 per cent. This means that consumers may not improve as much as the market expects.

Such improvements would benefit Glynwed and Delta, though particularly Glynwed for its baths and cookers as well as its metal tubing for central heating (the cold water heating is an additional boost), and Delta because nearly all its products end up in buildings of one kind or another.

AP Cement Diversification possibilities

Faced with a further decline of perhaps a tenth this year in United Kingdom cement deliveries, which would bring the reduction in demand since 1973 to close on a third and leave the industry with around 25 per cent surplus capacity, Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers is looking for a 10-15 per cent increase in cement prices. A further rise in industrial activity would continue to have a corresponding effect on profits, but an investment in IMI would not on this sort of reasoning be markedly different in character, from one in, say, GKN or ICI. BICC, meanwhile, needs a major improvement in its profits.

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In its very lack of emphasis the annual report of the Finance Houses Association, published yesterday, has underlined what figures from the Department of Industry had indicated already: that the credit business is marking time, with little growth in real terms in the value of new business taken on.

But whereas the absence of surface excitement has been a long time a fair reflection of the recuperative coma into which the industry has fallen, the industry was plunged in the wake of the crisis of 1974, now there are signs of stirrings beneath the surface.

What these stirrings indicate is a shift in the balance of business which is working to the advantage of some companies while others are losing out. The Association itself points out that there has been a sizeable swing towards the financing of non-consumer businesses, which now accounts for an estimated 50 per cent of the total done by members of the association—estimated because the swing is so recent that the association has only just got round to looking for statistics which will measure its magnitude.

Five years ago non-consumer business—the financing of industrial and commercial equipment by hire purchase or leasing—probably accounted for less than a quarter of the industry's business; now it is on the way to providing the major part.

There is no doubt that the rapid growth in non-consumer business has been a reflection of the somewhat peculiar circumstances which have prevailed in the corporate sector during this time, and in particular of the introduction of stock appreciation

Hire purchase: why industry is making the running

There has been a sizable swing towards the financing of non-consumer business which now accounts for an estimated 50% of the total done by members of the FHA

to be the fastest growing sector of the industry for the foreseeable future.

Now, since non-consumer business is, by definition, almost a prerogative of the bigger boys in the industry, companies like the clearing bank hire purchase subsidiaries, Forward Trust (around two thirds of its business), Lloyds & Scottish and Lombard North Central, this means that the smaller fish are having to fight for their growth in an area which (for all that the association detected signs of an upturn in the closing months of last year) has been at best static: the consumer end.

The consumer sector is, of its nature, a difficult one within which to expand. For the retailers (of cars, white goods and so on) through whom hire purchase facilities are normally provided, are frequently tied by the availability of cheap finance, either to particular manufacturers, or to particular hire purchase companies linked with those manufacturers.

Thus at the moment Forward Trust is in a position to offer a particularly attractive deal on the new Fiat car; and any other hire purchase company trying to break in on that market has

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shops are not necessarily to be laid at the door of the idea itself. In the case of the former they appear to have reflected management problems, and in the latter, difficulties of funding complemented by problems on property.

With Forward Trust, which also ventured into this field and had its fingers burnt, the principal problem was certainly property. But Forward Trust has since sorted itself out and is now cautiously expanding its money shop operation again.

And it is not the only one to be making forays in this direction. In the West Country, Western Trust and Savings, backed by Philadelphia National, is operating a quietly aggressive credit and deposit business from 15 retail outlets. With HFC (Household & Finance Company) and Boston Trust and Savings, Western Credit forms part of an American contingent now believed to have perhaps 10 per cent of the market in consumer credit, though relatively little of the non-consumer side.

When that happy day comes to which the chairman of the Finance Houses Association, Mr. Ronald Barnes, was looking in his annual statement when consumer business once again resumes its accustomed growth, these companies are likely to make a strong bid in that area, which now offers the best hope to the smaller members of the association.

It looks as though the battle for market share has only just begun.

Adrienne Gleeson

Hugh Clayton, Agricultural Correspondent, looks at a new manual for food planners

Waste not, want less

Man now dines to be confident about the survival of his species. It is not as fashionable as it once was, but the very thought of inescapable doom. Those who did so reasoned that technical advance founded on dwindling resources had no hope of matching the global birth-rate.

Now the prophets prefer to say that the necessary resources are available but grossly misused. That view is supported by the editors of an unusually comprehensive new manual for planners of food policy.

they reach pen. These can be equated with the tables which contain and illustrate the purpose of the book.

The main purpose of the book is to express the efficiency with which potential food materials pass from one stage in the food chain to the next. For example, the editors state that only 16 per cent of land that could be cultivated actually is. Much of the rest suffers from a harsh climate or some other constraint.

Mr. W. H. Pawley says in his chapter that elimination of these fly, the flycatcher which releases a fast disease to man and some animals, would release 1,000 million hectares of well-watered land in Africa. This is more than 10 times the farmland area of the EEC.

population of the world weighs less than 1/250th of the quantity that could be produced under the best conditions possible in theory. The editors accept that such a target is impossible in practice, but they show that there is plenty of scope for improvement.

The greatest variables which the food policy-makers meet are weather and man. Sir David Cuthbertson, senior research fellow in pathological biochemistry at the University of Glasgow, writes in his chapter: "Political diets are understood with some precision. The same cannot be said of our understanding of man's diet. First, he is not so readily available as an experimental animal; second, his activities and physical environment are so varied and uncontrollable; and third, his requirements vary; third, his food habits may or may not be consistent with good nutrition."

The editors and contributors to the book face without flinching the high-charged question of whether the diet of that part of the human race which is adequately fed is the most efficient in terms of resource-use. They find that it sometimes is not.

They note the vast quantity of cereals which are fed to livestock, especially in the developed world. They find that if the weight of potential human food fed to livestock was diverted to humans then the efficiency ratio of food use against livestock would rise from 0.44 to 0.67.

world average of 9.5 megajoules per head per day entering households.

The editors draw on 20 academic disciplines in order to reach a fuller assessment than usual of the efficiency of human food chains throughout the world. Their book is published and priced in The Netherlands, and at present rates of exchange costs £28.

Their one weakness is in politics. In the final chapter where the editors recommend policy-makers to apply an analysis based on efficiency levels, they include a brief section headed "Political and Popular Implications".

Business Diary: Dame Agatha and after • Stalking butter

Agatha Christie died in January last year but none the less maintains her pride of place in the annual report and accounts of Bookers McConeil food.

The conglomerate's Authors' Division handles the copyrights of a number of authors, among them Dame Agatha, Harold Gatty, Ian Fleming, George Bernard Shaw, Dennis Wheatley and John Galsworthy, chief among these is Dame Agatha.



Agatha Christie Limited, in which Bookers has a third stake, acquired more of her copyrights during the year and now owns most of her literary estate.

The Authors' Division increased post-tax profits by over third to £487,000 last year, most of it attributable to Dame Agatha. The two most notable sleuths, Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, were recently portrayed in the film *Murder on the Orient Express* by Albert Finney, and Miss Marple, now largely synonymous in film with the late Margaret Rutherford.

as a fifth this year as the removal of subsidies drives the price of butter above that of margarine.

The last straw came with the news that Unilever, the principal supplier of margarine to the British market, is to hold a "butter conference" next week.

This will provide a platform for speakers such as Richard Turner, senior fellow in preventive cardiology at the University of Edinburgh, and a leading opponent of diets high in saturated animal fats—of which butter is a leading example.

Unilever, sometimes regarded as the tenth member of the EEC, supplies margarine to the United Kingdom under the Stork, Echo, Blue Bird and Flora labels.

The counter attack is being led by James Morrison, chief of the Information Council and managing director of the Milk Marketing Board of England and Wales.

He says: "The council is very disturbed by some medical opinion which promotes hypothesis as fact, and conducts in the public media a debate which has never been resolved in medical scientific circles."

Fizz

From next week the Treasury's general expenditure division will be run by Robin Butler.

Butler, an Old Harrovian, Oxford Rugby Blue and classical scholar, who succeeds the Wykehamist John Anson on the latter's promotion from under-secretary to deputy secretary, has spent the past 18 months in the kind of job not normally

associated with the jeanneuse of a Treasury official.

Perched in a turret above the roof of Treasury Chambers, the former biller of the Ministry of Defence aerial reconnaissance library, he has helped develop, with a battery of computer experts, what Treasury men call "Fizz".

Butler and his hofins have had the task of rightening up the gap in the Government's control of public spending which the introduction of the Whitehall of a new Financial Information System, to give it its proper title, which measures spending flows on a monthly basis, a distinct improvement on the quarterly returns previously available.

Tall, fair-haired, athletic with an infectious enthusiasm for his 'esoteric' work, Butler in his new job will be deeply involved in that annual cycle by which Treasury men file, known as the Public Expenditure Survey.

His most glamorous job to date was his membership of the team of Whitehall flirts who make up the private secretaries' office at Number 10 Downing Street. For all his junior rank, there was talk of his succeeding Robert Armstrong as Principal Private Secretary in 1975.

Fiction of another sort has crept into the Bookers McConeil report and accounts. A graph of earnings per ordinary share shows a steady decline from over 20p in 1967 to less than half that in 1976. In fact, the graph was printed in the reverse order from what was intended and the earnings should have been shown as climbing from under 10p to over 20p in the same period.

Bookers's vice-chairman and chief executive Michael Caine has been translated into 103 languages, 14 more than Shakespeare.

Fighting fat

Competition between suppliers of butter and margarine is going to be so intense this year that fiercely competitive buttermakers are to give up the traditional pursuit of fighting among themselves to take on the common enemy.

New Zealand butter suppliers have united rivals in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Holland and Denmark to form a Butter Information Council. The job of the

Redemption Notice

City of Oslo (Norway)

9% Sinking Fund External Loan Bonds due May 1, 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Fiscal Agency Agreement dated as of May 1, 1970 under which the above described Bonds were issued, that Citibank, N.A., Fiscal Agent, has selected by lot for redemption on May 1, 1977 through the operation of the Sinking Fund, \$1,200,000 principal amount of said Bonds at the Sinking Fund redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to the date fixed for redemption. The serial numbers of the Bonds selected by lot for redemption are as follows:

1000000	1000001	1000002	1000003	1000004	1000005	1000006	1000007	1000008	1000009	1000010	1000011	1000012	1000013	1000014	1000015	1000016	1000017	1000018	1000019	1000020	1000021	1000022	1000023	1000024	1000025	1000026	1000027	1000028	1000029	1000030	1000031	1000032	1000033	1000034	1000035	1000036	1000037	1000038	1000039	1000040	1000041	1000042	1000043	1000044	1000045	1000046	1000047	1000048	1000049	1000050	1000051	1000052	1000053	1000054	1000055	1000056	1000057	1000058	1000059	1000060	1000061	1000062	1000063	1000064	1000065	1000066	1000067	1000068	1000069	1000070	1000071	1000072	1000073	1000074	1000075	1000076	1000077	1000078	1000079	1000080	1000081	1000082	1000083	1000084	1000085	1000086	1000087	1000088	1000089	1000090	1000091	1000092	1000093	1000094	1000095	1000096	1000097	1000098	1000099	1000100	1000101	1000102	1000103	1000104	1000105	1000106	1000107	1000108	1000109	1000110	1000111	1000112	1000113	1000114	1000115	1000116	1000117	1000118	1000119	1000120	1000121	1000122	1000123	1000124	1000125	1000126	1000127	1000128	1000129	1000130	1000131	1000132	1000133	1000134	1000135	1000136	1000137	1000138	1000139	1000140	1000141	1000142	1000143	1000144	1000145	1000146	1000147	1000148	1000149	1000150	1000151	1000152	1000153	1000154	1000155	1000156	1000157	1000158	1000159	1000160	1000161	1000162	1000163	1000164	1000165	1000166	1000167	1000168	1000169	1000170	1000171	1000172	1000173	1000174	1000175	1000176	1000177	1000178	1000179	1000180	1000181	1000182	1000183	1000184	1000185	1000186	1000187	1000188	1000189	1000190	1000191	1000192	1000193	1000194	1000195	1000196	1000197	1000198	1000199	1000200	1000201	1000202	1000203	1000204	1000205	1000206	1000207	1000208	1000209	1000210	1000211	1000212	1000213	1000214	1000215	1000216	1000217	1000218	1000219	1000220	1000221	1000222	1000223	1000224	1000225	1000226	1000227	1000228	1000229	1000230	1000231	1000232	1000233	1000234	1000235	1000236	1000237	1000238	1000239	1000240	1000241	1000242	1000243	1000244	1000245	1000246	1000247	1000248	1000249	1000250	1000251	1000252	1000253	1000254	1000255	1000256	1000257	1000258	1000259	1000260	1000261	1000262	1000263	1000264	1000265	1000266	1000267	1000268	1000269	1000270	1000271	1000272	1000273	1000274	1000275	1000276	1000277	1000278	1000279	1000280	1000281	1000282	1000283	1000284	1000285	1000286	1000287	1000288	1000289	1000290	1000291	1000292	1000293	1000294	1000295	1000296	1000297	1000298	1000299	1000300	1000301	1000302	1000303	1000304	1000305	1000306	1000307	1000308	1000309	1000310	1000311	1000312	1000313	1000314	1000315	1000316	1000317	1000318	1000319	1000320	1000321	1000322	1000323	1000324	1000325	1000326	1000327	1000328	1000329	1000330	1000331	1000332	1000333	1000334	1000335	1000336	1000337	1000338	1000339	1000340	1000341	1000342	1000343	1000344	1000345	1000346	1000347	1000348	1000349	1000350	1000351	1000352	1000353	1000354	1000355	1000356	1000357	1000358	1000359	1000360	1000361	1000362	1000363	1000364	1000365	1000366	1000367	1000368	1000369	1000370	1000371	1000372	1000373	1000374	1000375	1000376	1000377	1000378	1000379	1000380	1000381	1000382	1000383	1000384	1000385	1000386	1000387	1000388	1000389	1000390	1000391	1000392	1000393	1000394	1000395	1000396	1000397	1000398	1000399	1000400	1000401	1000402	1000403	1000404	1000405	1000406	1000407	1000408	1000409	1000410	1000411	1000412	1000413	1000414	1000415	1000416	1000417	1000418	1000419	1000420	1000421	1000422	1000423	1000424	1000425	1000426	1000427	1000428	1000429	1000430	1000431	1000432	1000433	1000434	1000435	1000436	1000437	1000438	1000439	1000440	1000441	1000442	1000443	1000444	1000445	1000446	1000447	1000448	1000449	1000450	1000451	1000452	1000453	1000454	1000455	1000456	1000457	1000458	1000459	1000460	1000461	1000462	1000463	1000464	1000465	1000466	1000467	1000468	1000469	1000470	1000471	1000472	1000473	1000474	1000475	1000476	1000477	1000478	1000479	1000480	1000481	1000482	1000483	1000484	1000485	1000486	1000487	1000488	1000489	1000490	1000491	1000492	1000493	1000494	1000495	1000496	1000497	1000498	1000499	1000500	1000501	1000502	1000503	1000504	1000505	1000506	1000507	1000508	1000509	1000510	1000511	1000512	1000513	1000514	1000515	1000516	1000517	1000518	1000519	1000520	1000521	1000522	1000523	1000524	1000525	1000526	1000527	1000528	1000529	1000530	1000531	1000532	1000533	1000534	1000535	1000536	1000537	1000538	1000539	1000540	1000541	1000542	1000543	1000544	1000545	1000546	1000547	1000548	1000549	1000550	1000551	1000552	1000553	1000554	1000555	1000556	1000557	1000558	1000559	1000560	1000561	1000562	1000563	1000564	1000565	1000566	1000567	1000568	1000569	1000570	1000571	1000572	1000573	1000574	1000575	1000576	1000577	1000578	1000579	1000580	1000581	1000582	1000583	1000584	1000585	1000586	1000587	1000588	1000589	1000590	1000591	1000592	1000593	1000594	1000595	1000596	1000597	1000598	1000599	1000600	1000601	1000602	1000603	1000604	1000605	1000606	1000607	1000608	1000609	1000610	1000611	1000612	1000613	1000614	1000615	1000616	1000617	1000618	1000619	1000620	1000621	1000622	1000623	1000624	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107.11; 65 stocks, 500.01; 500.61;
New York Stock Exchange Index
11.31 (53.73); Industrials 7.1
58.39; Transportation, 61.34; 10.7
Utilities, 40.18 (57.90); financial
4.52 (53.71);

The Dow Jones spot commodity index rose up 1.73 to 420.57. The futures index was unchanged at 427.10.

The Dow Jones averages.—Indus-

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SECRETARY/PA

AGE 25-35 To £3,800

You would be working with the M.D. of small, busy Management Consultancy near Oxford Circus. This is an involving job—very satisfying for a capable, experienced Secretary.

Call us personally... ask for Janet Ward who can tell you more.

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CUSTOMER RELATIONS OFFICER

F. W. Woolworth & Co. Ltd. require a suitable qualified/experienced person aged 28 plus to head up their small Customer Liaison Department which deals with customers and store complaints and queries etc. This is an extremely interesting and demanding position which offers a good salary, subsidised restaurant and staff discount buying facilities.

Please write, giving details of your career to date, to: Miss P. Wakefield, Personnel Officer, F. W. WOOLWORTH & CO. LTD., 242/246, Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1.

SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR

INTERNATIONAL TRADING

W1 £4,000

The Managing Director of a shipping and oil trading group requires a Secretary/Administrator to assist in the day-to-day running of the office. The successful candidate will be responsible for handling all correspondence, organising travel, and maintaining records. A good knowledge of English and French is essential. Salary £4,000 p.a. plus benefits.

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Advertising

£3,500-£3,700

P.A./Co-ordinator

High calibre person with administrative experience required for a busy advertising agency. The successful candidate will be responsible for handling all correspondence, organising travel, and maintaining records. A good knowledge of English and French is essential. Salary £3,500-£3,700 p.a. plus benefits.

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£3,500 + neg

If you are aged 25+ and have done your Secretarial 'A' or 'B' and are looking for recognition in an administrative position, then this could be your job. Work with a Director of a large, well-established Co. (W.1), organizing seminars, training courses, etc. with a major focus on the future of the company. A most rewarding and involving job for an adventurous, with humour and initiative. Telephone James Laverack on 489 2000.

Acorn Personnel Services, 10 Maddox Street, W.1.

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Legal experience an advantage. £3,400 PLUS L.V.s RING 01-242 5532

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To find a job in the City, you need to know where to look. Our second job should be your first. We have a number of opportunities for secretaries and typists in the City. Some are permanent, some are temporary. All are well paid and offer excellent career prospects. Call us now on 585 0274.

SECRETARY P.A.

required for Partner in firm of ESTATE AGENTS. Salary £3,200 p.a. plus benefits. 3 weeks' holiday, L.V.s, P.P.S. Salary £3,200. Contact Miss Johnson: 01-485 1252, ext. 297

PERSONNEL OFFICER

£4,000 + BONUS

Unique opportunity for someone wishing to further their career in Personnel. Our clients, an American Investment Bank, seeks responsible person with previous experience in this field who will handle recruitment, administration, welfare and affiliated duties. Age 28-40.

SECRETARY-MERCHANT BANK

£4,000

Director dealing with worldwide investments seeks calm, competent Secretary who has worked previously in this sphere. Initiative and speed for involvement are prerequisites.

SW1 £3,500 negotiable

Chairman and Deputy Chairman of large international company need patient and versatile Secretary to organise their busy acquired offices. Good formal skills, initiative, and a sense of humour vital. In return, you will find your day stimulating and varied. Knowledge French and/or German an advantage. Age 25-32.

Career plan

17 AIR STREET, W.1. 734 4284

PA FOR CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

City EC3 £3,300+

Join a busy lively team in a busy lively office in a leading City firm. The task is to grease the wheels, to smooth stony paths and furrowed brows, to deal with a wide range of interesting and important people.

The salary for the right person with excellent secretarial skills will be around £3,300, but could be more depending on your experience. The other terms and conditions are excellent and include good holidays, free lunches and life cover.

Please ring 01-626 0801 to find out all about it

GERMANY

HAMBURG: £3,500 to the experienced Secretary for an international company. Good formal skills, initiative, and a sense of humour vital. In return, you will find your day stimulating and varied. Knowledge French and/or German an advantage. Age 25-32.

MANCHESTER: £3,500 to the experienced Secretary for an international company. Good formal skills, initiative, and a sense of humour vital. In return, you will find your day stimulating and varied. Knowledge French and/or German an advantage. Age 25-32.

MULTILINGUAL SERVICES

22 Charing Cross Road, W.C.2. 01-836 3794/5

FOREIGN TRADE

Busy Managing Director of fast expanding group of companies based in the City requires a competent well-educated and energetic Secretary with a quick mind who is capable of taking considerable responsibility in a small organisation. Own office plus electric typewriter.

Salary negotiable around £3,500 plus Christmas bonus and L.V.s.

PLEASE RING AND SPEAK DIRECT TO MR. WALSHE, 01-353 8991.

PA TO DIRECTOR/CONSULTANT

Company based in the City

require PA with audio, plenty of typing, and a good knowledge of handling telephone enquiries and dealing with clients at all levels. Age 25+. Salary around £3,250.

Susan Hamilton Personnel

33 St George's Street, London, W.1.

01-499 5408/4238.

HAMBURG

£6,500

Join the excitement of the International Banking World. A cultured, progressive Secretary is needed to assist the main board Director of a large merchant bank in the function of overseas. Good formal skills, initiative, and a sense of humour vital. In return, you will find your day stimulating and varied. Knowledge French and/or German an advantage. Age 25-32.

Public Relations

£3,500

This expanding international company in W.1 needs a P.A./Secretary to assist in the day-to-day running of the office. The successful candidate will be responsible for handling all correspondence, organising travel, and maintaining records. A good knowledge of English and French is essential. Salary £3,500 p.a. plus benefits.

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CADOGAN ESTATE

CHELSEA

require an experienced audio typist with knowledge of shorthand and a good telephone manner. Age 25-35. Salary £3,200 + 50p L.V.s. 4 weeks holiday. Hours 9.30 am to 5 p.m. Non-contributory pension and medical scheme. Telephone 01-584 4391 ext. 31.

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OVERSEAS DIVISION

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NO PRESSURES NO OVERTIME

£3,500 p.a.

If you are confident in your secretarial skills, and seek an unpressured but rewarding atmosphere as the Chairman's Secretary, then you could be ideally suited for this vacancy with a major firm company in W.1, where personal consideration of staff is the policy. Contact Judy Blythe.

ALBEMARLE APPOINTMENTS

31 Berkeley St., W.1. 01-499 3712

PA/SEC

for Research Director

If you are a self-starter with a high level of initiative and a good knowledge of the pharmaceutical industry, you could be ideally suited for this vacancy with a major firm company in W.1, where personal consideration of staff is the policy. Contact Judy Blythe.

adventure

63 South Maitland St., W.1. 629 5717

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PARIS LEGAL SEC.

The Paris office of an International Computer Company require a Secretary for their European Legal Counsel (an English-speaking Dutchman). The candidate should have worked for at least 3 years for a barrister, solicitor or company legal adviser. Excellent secretarial skills are essential. French is not essential—but would be a definite asset. The work concerns commercial contracts, real estate and other legal matters. Salary £7,000 gross payable in France.

Contact: Mrs D. Shaert 01-235 9984

WINDSOR £4,000

A well-known heavy engineering company is setting up an office in Windsor to deal with an important contract in Brazil. The Operations Manager requires a ready efficient Secretary/PA to work there for about 4 years. He will be away frequently and needs someone able to run his office and make decisions. Extensive travel arrangements and contact with clients and contractors. Age probably 25-35. Own office. Generous holidays.

Contact: Mrs J. Armit 01-235 9984

NORTHWOOD M/SEX

BILING. SEC.

A tax-free salary on a scale of £2,775-£3,685 is offered by an International Organisation for a Bilingual Secretary, fluent in French. Excellent secretarial skills. (French shorthand not necessary).

Contact: Mrs J. Armit 01-235 9984

BRENTFORD £3,500

The M/D of an International Group of Companies with a unique range of key products requires a Secretary who can work on initiative and whose responsibilities include both secretarial and administrative. Must be smart with pleasant personality. Own office, 4 weeks' holiday. Sub. Dining Room.

Contact: Miss A. Moriarty 01-235 9984

S.W.1 £3,400

The Management Development Adviser of a major company needs a Secretary who can handle queries and administrative tasks, and assist with the graduate intake. He is also responsible for management training courses throughout U.K. An exceptionally good company with excellent conditions. Own office.

Contact: Miss A. Moriarty 01-235 9984

CIRCA £3,500 N.W.3

Would you welcome the type of involvement associated with a small, thriving Service Company? One moment a Secretary—the next dealing with customers' queries and helping to organise an efficient office system. Here working, friendly colleagues. Salary negotiable, according to experience.

Contact: Miss M. Cornforth 01-235 9984

Late night opening 6.45 pm every Thursday.

Telephone Mrs Dorothy Allison (Manager) on 01-235 9984 for an appointment at

4-5 Grosvenor Place, Hyde Park Corner, SW1

American Oil Group SEC/PA

★ £3,700 ★

An interesting division of this leading American Oil Group urgently requires a PA/Secretary for their Financial Controller. A graduate with a good knowledge of accounting and dealing with top management on

